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WEEKEND MONEY  
PAGE 31

Executions are 'a great insult to the gods of justice in this world'

## Nigeria faces expulsion for hanging nine

FROM NICHOLAS WOOD IN AUCKLAND AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

NIGERIA'S military regime flagrantly defied world opinion yesterday, executing the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists for regional rights, despite an international campaign for clemency.

The hangings plunged the Commonwealth into one of the worst crises in its history and jeopardised Nigeria's membership. The writer had been nominated for the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize and the executions drew universal condemnation from governments, human rights campaigners and literary figures.

John Major, attending the heads of government meeting in Auckland, said: "There can be no place for Nigeria in the Commonwealth."

The Foreign Office said: "We are appalled at this callous act. The executions violate Nigeria's commitments under international law to provide a fair trial and right of appeal."

President Mandela of South Africa, who had urged a continuation of dialogue with Nigeria, said he would recommend its expulsion.

The Commonwealth's response is to be determined at a weekend retreat. A source said: "After suspension you've got to think of sanctions. If the Commonwealth isn't seen to act it will lose its credibility."

In the United Nations Security Council, Madeleine Albright, the US Ambassador, said her Government was

**INSIDE**

Gallows death	11
Major refusal	12
Leading article	21

by the dictator of Nigeria in order to avoid a trial before an independent court."

David Howell, chairman of the All Party Foreign Affairs Committee, said Nigeria could expect to be forced out of the Commonwealth.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, called for a boycott of Shell Oil "because of the role Shell have played in the exploitation of the Ogoni people and the company's support for the Nigerian dictatorship."

News of the executions came from the News Agency of Nigeria which reported that the nine men were hanged at Port Harcourt prison in south-eastern Nigeria at about 1130 local (1030 GMT) after priests prayed for them. Their bodies were taken out for burial at the city cemetery four hours later amid night security.

The wives of the condemned men had tried to bring their husbands a meal late on Thursday but were turned away. Hauwa Saro-Wiwa, his weeping wife, said: "Oh God, what am I going to do? He is the only thing I have in the whole world."

Mr Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues were sentenced by a tribunal last week over the murder in 1994 of four pro-government Ogoni tribal chiefs. The writer had campaigned on behalf of the 500,000 Ogoni people who live in Nigeria's oil-rich south and



Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer. His wife was unable to visit him before his execution

say their land and water are being destroyed by oil industry pollution. Oil accounts for about 80 per cent of Nigeria's export income, and critics of the industry often are silenced.

As president of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni Peoples he had led a campaign for self-determination for the Ogoni minority and to protect the environment in their homeland.

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group, which operated in Ogoniland until 1993, said it deeply regretted the executions but had no immediate plans to alter its operations in the rest of the country. "From the violence that led to the murder of the four Ogoni leaders in May last year through to the death penalty having been carried out, the human cost has been too high," the company said.

### Nation prepares to pay silent tribute

FOR the first time in almost 60 years Britain may all but come to a halt this morning as the nation stands in silent tribute to her war dead and injured on Armistice Day.

At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month — when 77 years ago the guns fell silent at the end of the Great War — the nation will remember those who fell. There will be memories too of those who died in the Second World War and subsequent conflicts — a total of almost 1½ million men.

Chain stores, supermarkets, corner shopkeepers and publicans have all pledged support to a Royal British Legion campaign aimed at ensuring the fallen are not forgotten. Customers will be urged to stay silent for two minutes of quiet reflection.

Branches of Sainsbury, Asda and Woolworth will broadcast loudspeaker messages to shoppers just as 11.00 is about to strike. Harrods will do the same.

Others joining the campaign include McDonald's and British Telecom. London cabbies have promised to pull over to the side of the road for two minutes and not charge passengers any extra for the journey. Participants in the Lord Mayor's Show in London will also pay homage: the procession will not begin until 11.02am.

John Major, in New Zealand for the Commonwealth Conference, has told the Royal British Legion that he too will honour the two-minute silence, as will other leaders.

Remembrance Sunday is expected to bring an estimated 10,000 old soldiers, sailors or airmen to the Cenotaph.

Nation's standstill, page 10  
Magnus Linklater, page 20

### Three drivers injured as trains collide

Three train drivers were last night taken to hospital after a collision between a London-bound express and an empty commuter train outside Paddington Station, London.

At least three passengers on the InterCity train from Swansea also suffered minor injuries in the crash which occurred at Royal Oak, about a mile from the station. The accident at about 4.25pm closed lines from Paddington to Bristol, Cardiff and other western routes.



John Scripps

### Death penalty for Briton

Briton John Scripps, 35, faces death by hanging in Singapore after being convicted yesterday of killing and dismembering a South African tourist. Suspected of murdering another three victims, including a London businessman, Scripps is to appeal. Scotland Yard officers are trying to interview him about the businessman's death in Belize. Page 3

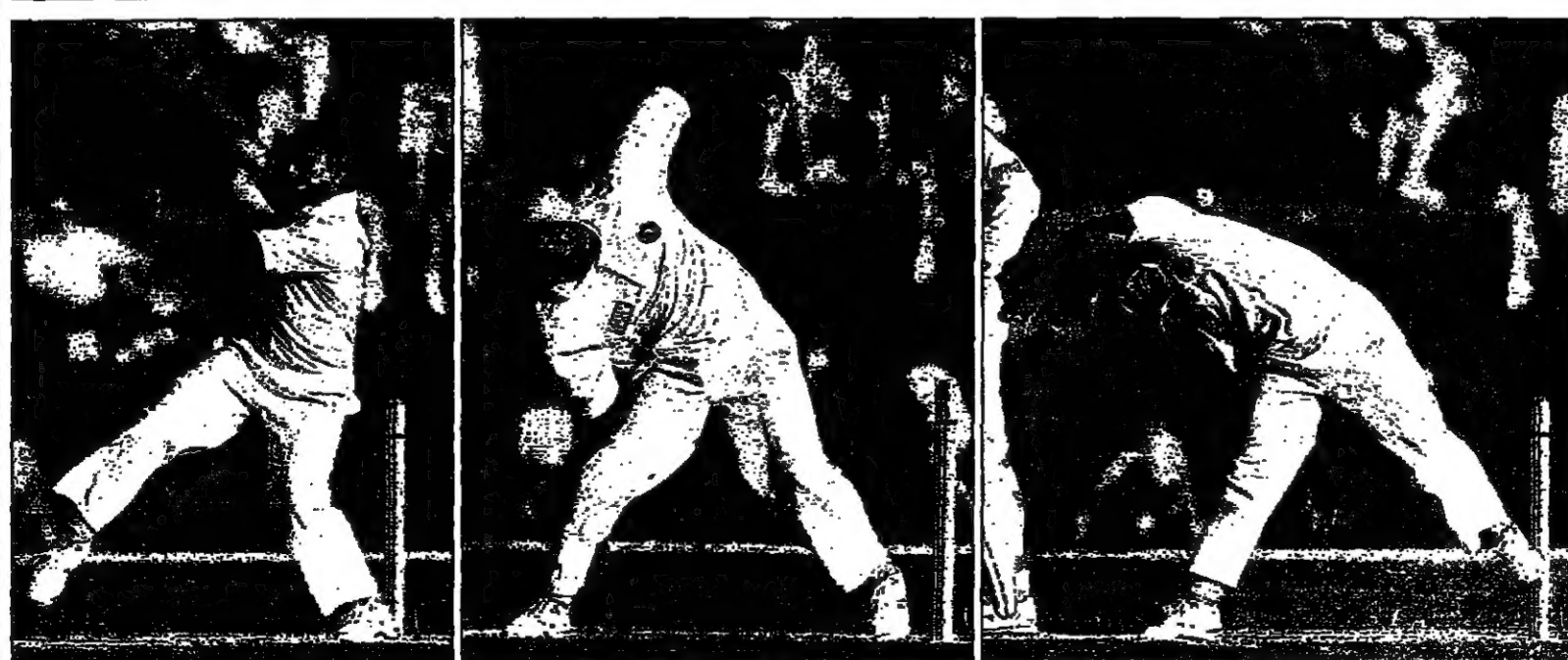
### Siamese twins born in London

Siamese twins were born last night in Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, west London. The boys, who were later transferred to Great Ormond Street Hospital, were reported to be stable.

**INSIDE**

Jane MacQuitty's list of top 20 wines at under £5  
Magazine, page 57

Magnus Linklater on memories and remembrance  
Page 20



South African teenager Paul Adams in action yesterday: fascinated England players gathered at the sight screen to study his bizarre action

## England tumbles to 'frog in blender' googly

FROM ALAN LEE IN KIMBERLEY

ENGLAND'S cricketers came to South Africa expecting to confront a battalion of hostile fast bowlers. Instead, yesterday, they were embarrassed by a diminutive, teenage Cape coloured practising the ancient and neglected art of left-arm wrist-spin with an action that has famously been described as resembling a frog in a blender.

Paul Adams, the son of a fisherman from a humble part of Cape Town, is just 18. He works in his brother's television repair shop and is playing only the third first-class match of his infant cricketing career. And yet, representing South Africa A in the diamond-mining town of Kimberley, he dismissed three of England's top five Test players for one run, threatening the touring side with a damaging defeat in their final warm-up match before the Test series.

Adams is a throwback. Forty years ago and more, leg-spin bowlers were plentiful, even of the left-arm variety. Some bestrode the Test and county scene, their exploits fondly recalled yesterday by the England manager, Raymond Illingworth. Changes in pitches and a shift in the pace and philosophy of cricket had largely seen them banished to the backwaters of the amateur game.

But Adams is something different again. Because he bowls left-arm, and because his stock ball is the googly that spins away to the right-hander's off-side after pitching, rather than the so-called Chinaman, which spins in, he is an alien being to almost all the current England team. Add to this the fact that he delivers the ball with a bizarre head movement that points his face first at the sky and then at the turf and it can be appreciated that he is a disconcerting opponent.

Warne's first ball in a Test Match in England turned more than a yard to bowl a dumbfounded Mike Gatting. It was widely acclaimed as the ball of the century. The citizens of Kimberley had to wait a little longer for their new hero yesterday. It was Adams's second ball that bowled the England vice-captain, Alec Stewart, and he quickly followed it with the wickets of Graham Thorpe and Graeme Hick.

As he continued his spell, fascinated England players gathered by the sight screen to study his bizarre action. They may be seeing plenty more of it, too. Although the South African side has already been named for the first of five Tests, which begins next Thursday, Adams is now a clear contender to feature later in the series.

Diary, page 20  
Sport, page 48

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WEATHER	24	LETTERS	21	ARTS	17, 19	GARDENING: WEEKENDS	5
CROSSWORD	24	OBITUARIES	23	WEEKEND MONEY	29-39	BOOKS: WEEKEND	14, 15
COURT & SOCIAL	22	SIMON JENKINS	??	SPORT	42-48	TRAVEL: WEEKEND	18-23



THE TIMES  
ON MONDAY16 pages  
of Times  
Sport on  
Monday

## Irish police seize 1,000lb bomb from van

By NICHOLAS WATT  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH police seized a van yesterday containing a 1,000lb bomb which republican dissidents were planning to explode in Northern Ireland to destabilise the peace process.

Armed officers who stopped the van within miles of the border also found up to 700lb of explosives in a nearby shed, which is believed to have been a bomb-making factory. Security sources in the Republic said they believed the bomb was the work of the Irish National Republican Army, the terrorist wing of Republican Sinn Féin. The party, which broke away from Sinn Féin in 1986, is opposed to the IRA ceasefire.

The IRA, in a statement issued in

Dublin, categorically denied any involvement in the bomb find. It came as Sinn Féin gave its strongest statement yet that the peace process was nearing collapse. Martin McGuinness, who has been leading the party's talks with the Government, will say in a BBC Radio 4 interview today: "I fear that the entire peace process is almost on the threshold of a complete collapse."

Mr McGuinness, regarded as the leading republican strategist, says: "We actually don't have a peace process at this time because of the refusal of other parties to come to the table." Asked if that suggests a return to violence is imminent, he replied: "There is every danger of history repeating itself."

However, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the

Northern Ireland Secretary, said last night that the discovery of the bomb underlined the need for the IRA to begin to decommission its arms before Sinn Féin can join all-party talks. He said there was a continuing threat from "evil people" who wanted to mount terrorist attacks.

Detectives from the Irish police's anti-terrorist squad closed in on a white Toyota Hiace van at about 5.30am yesterday as it was parked in a lane near Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan, which is within five miles of the hardline republican area of south Armagh across the border. They arrested one man at the scene and a second shortly after.

A helicopter from the Republic's Army Air Corps searched for three other men who escaped, one of whom

was arrested yesterday afternoon. The arrests were the culmination of a lengthy intelligence operation which was co-ordinated at police headquarters in Dublin.

Bomb disposal experts from the Irish Army found the bomb, which was made from homemade explosives, packed into 13 plastic bags in the back of the van. A police explosives expert said last night that three booster charges were set into the explosive mixture and a fuse linked the explosives to detonators in the front of the van.

It is understood that the device was going to be used in a terrorist attack against a security force base in Northern Ireland. Another detective said: "It could have caused massive damage and death if detonated." The

seizure of the bomb yesterday was the most dramatic security operation in the Republic since the IRA ceasefire in August last year and underlines the gravity of the threat from the INRA. The organisation, which has about 50 members, hopes to attract dissident members of the IRA who are opposed to the ceasefire.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, said yesterday that the bomb underlined the fragility of the peace process and called for immediate all-party talks. David Trimble, the leader of the Ulster Unionists, said: "I wouldn't be surprised if this was done with the assistance or the blessing of Sinn Féin/IRA as a reminder to the Northern Ireland Office of what will happen if they don't kowtow to the IRA."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Chauffeur loses case

The chauffeur to John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, yesterday lost his claim of racial discrimination at an industrial tribunal. The hearing ruled that the evidence of Tahir Rafi Janjua, of Norbury, south London, could not be considered as reliable and accurate. Mr Edmonds said he was delighted that the GMB had been vindicated. "As a trade union, we must set an example," he said.

## Arsonist jailed

A businessman who believed his ex-wife had an affair with the racehorse trainer Ian Balding was jailed for six years for arson. Michael Butcher, 46, caused £14,000 damage to a cottage owned by Mr Balding's wife and distributed poison-pen letters in a "vitriolic hate campaign". Winchester Crown Court was told. He had denied arson.

## Murder charge

Stuart Smith, 19, and Roberto Pace and Richard Bowness, both 18, have been remanded in custody by Plymouth magistrates charged with the murder of Frederick Sweet, 64, and attempted murder of Bernard Hawken, 54, in Central Park, Plymouth, where Mr Sweet's body was found on Monday with multiple injuries. Mr Hawken was found near by.



STEVE BARN

## Royalty on road to rugby honours

Peter Phillips gets in some passing practice with Gordonstoun teammates yesterday after being named as a replacement for Scotland Under-18 in Edinburgh next Friday (Mark Souster writes). The Princess Royal's son took a step closer to becoming the first member of the Royal Family to play representative rugby for Scotland after impressing the selectors in a trial at Murrayfield on Wednesday in which he scored a try. Even if he were to come on

as a substitute Peter would not, on this occasion, win a cap. His target will be to represent Scotland in the schools home international series against England, Wales, Ireland and France later in the season. The 17-year-old, who qualifies for Scotland by dint of residency and whose mother is the patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, shows considerable ability as an open side wing forward. However his

height, 5ft 10in, may prevent him from reaching the very top of the sport, although such distinguished internationalists as David Sole, the former Scotland captain, and the centre Scott Hastings believe he deserves his chance. Sole, who presented his jersey to the young Peter after the 1990 Grand Slam season, said: "Having coached Peter I've known for a while he had real ability. Peter's mother represented

Britain at the Olympics, and there's no reason why he shouldn't go on from here." Peter has played a major part in the success enjoyed by his school First XV this season. Gordonstoun has five representatives in the Schools squad and two in the side, among them Fergie Gladstone, a descendant of the former Prime Minister. Chris Barton, master in charge of rugby at Gordonstoun, said yesterday:

"The fact that five members of the First XV are in the squad reflects the strength of rugby at the school, which is enjoying a highly successful season."

Asked if his pupil had been picked because of who he was Ben Goss, his housemaster, said: "You watch his work rate. He's good." Peter has come a long way from captaining a school team at a match in Inverness when the referee, on recognising the Queen's grandson, said: "Sir would you like to call tails or Granny?"

## Howard censured over killer's sentence

By A STAFF REPORTER

THE Home Secretary was criticised by a High Court judge yesterday for unfairly increasing by a third the minimum period a double murderer must spend in prison before being considered for release.

The High Court's latest rebuff to the Home Secretary was the second successful challenge to the setting of a tariff to be served by a prisoner on a mandatory life sentence.

Mr Howard was granted leave to appeal, but Mr Justice Turner said if he was to do so it should be done with the "utmost expedition". The case could have implications for similar rulings. The latest ruling will add to the strained relations between the Government and the judiciary.

John Pierson received two life sentences for the "horrible and appar-

ently motiveless" shooting of his parents as they slept in their farmhouse near Oswestry, Shropshire, in 1984. The trial judge and the then Lord Chief Justice, Lord Lane, recommended a minimum of 15 years. However, in August 1993 he was told that the Home Secretary had increased the tariff by five years to 20 years. Mr Justice Turner said Mr Howard had "failed to measure up to the required standard of fairness".

The judge said Mr Howard had erred in law in believing that he had "an absolute discretion" to increase a life's minimum sentence if he thought fit. In exceptional circumstances, for example when new information of an adverse character about a prisoner came to light, the minister could make a decision to increase the period of detention.

But one of the main purposes in

requiring the Home Secretary to state the minimum period mandatory life sentences must serve was to enable prisoners to know "with a reasonable degree of accuracy" how long they should expect to remain in custody.

In the case of Pierson, who was 20 at the time of the murders, there was no new aggravating factor giving rise to exceptional circumstances, and the Home Secretary had to exercise his discretion fairly. The judge added: "If fairness is the parameter which is to govern the exercise of his discretion, the intelligent observer of the history of the present case might think that the Secretary of State has failed to measure up to the required standard."

During the hearing Edward Fitzgerald, QC, representing Pierson, claimed that the Home Secretary had "irrationally" fixed a tariff period longer than that recommended by both the trial

judge, Mr Justice Michael Davies, and the Lord Chief Justice. A shorter term would have been appropriate given Pierson's youth and his previous good character.

In November 1994 the Court of Appeal quashed Mr Howard's decision that two Kashmiri students jailed for life for the murder of an Indian diplomat should serve a minimum of 25 years. The initial minimum had been ten years.

Peter Butler, a Tory member of the Home Affairs Select Committee, said after the ruling that the Home Secretary ought to have the power to increase sentences. "It may be a matter then for legislation to clear it up once and for all," he said on BBC Radio 4.

"The trial judge is not the font of all knowledge and there has to be some procedure whereby an obviously too lenient sentence can be increased."

## Tories attack storyline of BBC drama

CABINET ministers have put pressure on the BBC to rethink a decision to screen an episode of *Casualty* tonight in which a fondholding GP sends a patient to a hospital 50 miles away.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, and Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, are demanding that the BBC follows its guidelines in ensuring that dramatic portrayals of contemporary situations remain do not give a "totally misleading" impression.

John Birt, the BBC Director-General, rejected suggestions of inaccuracy.

## TOURIST GUIDE

Four-page pull-out on England's  
Test series in South Africa

PLUS: Jonah Lomu and the All Blacks in Europe,  
David Hands reports from Toulouse

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Escaped convict shows no emotion as Singapore judge talks of more unsolved killings

## Briton is sentenced to die on the gallows for murder of tourist

REPORTS BY  
STEWART TENDLER  
AND ANDREW DRUMMOND

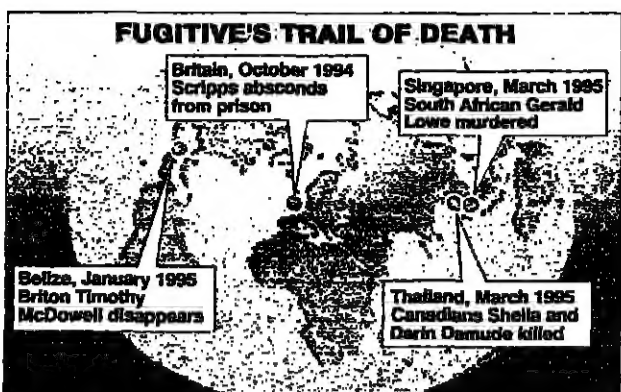
A BRITISH fugitive suspected of preying on tourists showed no emotion yesterday as he was sentenced to hang for murder in Singapore.

John Scripps, 35, from Letchworth, Hertfordshire, was found guilty of killing a South African tourist he befriended, then dismembering him and dumping the body in the city harbour. His motive was said to be to steal the man's money and credit cards.

He was said to be laughing and joking with his guards minutes before the verdict.

Scripps, on the run from a British prison, will appeal against the sentence for the murder of Gerald Lowe, a brewery worker, but could go to the gallows next March. He is also suspected of the murder of three other tourists: Timothy McDowell, 28, a London business consultant who vanished in Belize last January on a trekking holiday, and Canadian Sheila Damude, 49, and her son Darin, 23, who were found dumped in undergrowth on the Thai holiday island of Phuket.

Passing sentence yesterday,



Judge T.S. Sinnathuray said that, from evidence provided by Thai witnesses, he believed Scripps was also guilty of killing the two Canadians.

The Briton maintained that Lowe's killing was accidental — a violent reaction to a homosexual pass and pleaded guilty to manslaughter.

The death sentence is mandatory for a murder conviction. After the murder in a shared hotel room on March 8, Scripps dismembered his victim using butchery techniques he learnt in the kitchen of Albany prison on the Isle of Wight.

Parts of Lowe's body, including his torso and legs,

were found floating in Singapore harbour wrapped in black plastic bin-bags. The head and arms have never been found. Scripps was arrested with weapons including a hammer, a sharp set of knives, an electric stun gun, handcuffs and thumb screws. He also had passports and credit cards belonging to Lowe and to the Canadian tourists.

Jennifer Marie, for the prosecution, showed that Scripps used Lowe's credit card to go on a shopping spree after the murder, including buying a ticket for a classical music concert, and withdrawing thousands of dollars from a bank. His mother, Jean

Scripps, 58, from Sandown, Isle of Wight, sat through part of the trial but was back in Britain yesterday.

She said: "I brought John into this world. I am the only person who has the right to take him out of it."

"I cannot believe how my boy could have changed from a kind human being into the monster he has been described in court."

Edmond Pereira, Scripps's lawyer, said the Briton was determined to exhaust all legal channels.

Under Singapore law, Scripps is allowed to file a notice of appeal within 14 days. Such an appeal would likely be heard early next year. If it were rejected, Scripps could still make a last-ditch petition for clemency to Singapore's president.

Scotland Yard is sending officers to Singapore to question Scripps about the murder of Mr McDowell. Officers have been to Mexico and Belize tracing the movements of the two men.

The Foreign Office said that any diplomatic appeals on behalf of Britons sentenced to death were decided on their merits, after all legal avenues had failed.



John Scripps: determined to exhaust all legal procedures on mandatory sentence

## Suspected victim vanished in Belize

ONE of John Scripps's suspected victims, 28-year-old Timothy McDowell, was an adventurous and high-flying Cambridge graduate who had everything to live for when he vanished on holiday in Belize.

A successful management consultant, he had been working on a freelance contract with the packaging firm Nurdin and Peacock. Alex Rentall, the commercial director, said: "He was one of the brightest consultants I ever worked with. He was a tall, fit young man with boundless energy and enthusiasm. It is truly a tragic loss."

At the end of last year he decided to take a long holiday and go backpacking through Central and South America. He was last heard from in January, diving on a reef.

His family began to get worried in February, when it was discovered that \$20,000 had been transferred from accounts in London to accounts in the United States later found to have been opened by Scripps. When Scripps was arrested one of Mr McDowell's friends recognised an alias he used was the same as the account name.

By then police in Belize had found human remains in a harbour. After an autopsy they were cremated. Scotland Yard now believes Mr McDowell was the victim.

## Prison blunders left Scripps free to kill

THE petty thief who became a drug dealer and ended up as a serial killer. He might never have been free but for the failings of the British prison system. John Scripps now faces questioning by British police but the authorities in Thailand are also checking the cases of several foreign tourists who they fear might have also died at his hands.

The tall, quietly spoken man born in Letchworth in Hertfordshire began his criminal career with petty thefts but ended up murdering for cash to survive on the run from prison in Britain. He killed his victims with a hammer after paralysing them with a stungun and dismembered them to conceal their identities. He was taught butchery in a British prison.

Scotland Yard want to ask Scripps about the death of Timothy McDowell, a London businessman who vanished backpacking through South America. Thai and Canadian officers are investigating the deaths of Mrs Sheila Damude, 48, the former secretary to a Canadian politician, and her 21-year-old son Darin who met Scripps on the pleasure island of Phuket and then disappeared. Scripps might never have been free to kill but

for blunders by the prison authorities in Britain. Three times he absconded while on home leave and committed new crimes.

Last October he was allowed home from prison for fourth time and promptly absconded. His family say he had been refused parole two days earlier and made it clear he was likely to abscond. The Prison Service says officers at The Mount prison in Hertfordshire have since been disciplined. The escape was the final chapter in a criminal career which began at the age of 15. Scripps, who was a keen traveller, went to the United States and Mexico where he met a Mexican girl Maria Pilar Arellanos, aged 17. They married in 1980 in London and lived and travelled together for two years.

In 1982 he was convicted on ten counts of burglary and asked for 30 offences to be taken into consideration. Then he absconded. Recaptured in Britain, he went to prison again for burglary. Again he was given home leave and fled. Two years later in 1987 he was charged with supplying heroin. By now he had set up home in St John's Wood, an expensive area of London. He was jailed for seven years and

absconded again in 1990. He used German and Belgian aliases and had changed his name by deed poll to John Martin. He was eventually caught and jailed for six years to run concurrently with the sentences from which he had escaped.

On home leave in October last year he vanished once more and within a month he was in Mexico, telling the British Embassy he was John Martin and had lost his passport. He was given a new one. In mid-January he entered Mexico through Belize. It was here he met Mr McDowell whom he is believed to have killed as he slept.

At the end of February Scripps left for Singapore. He checked in at the River View Hotel with Gerard Lowe, 32, a South African engineer, on March 8. The same night Lowe was killed. Scripps checked out the following day, muttering that Lowe had made a pass at him.

On March 11 Scripps flew to Thailand. Two days later parts of a body were found in Singapore harbour. Scripps flew on to Phuket on March 15 and en route struck up a conversation with Mrs Damude and her son. At Phuket they checked into neighbouring rooms at a sea-front hotel.

When he was arrested at Changi airport on March 19 he was carrying Mrs Damude's credit card, watch and passport with Scripps's photograph where hers should be. They also found passports belonging to Darin Damude, Gerard Lowe, Simon Davis and John Martin. In his luggage were five pairs of handcuffs, an electric stun gun, hammers and knives. Days later Thai police found the dismembered bodies of the Damudes in shallow wood-land graves.



Scripps on his wedding day in 1980 with Maria Arellanos whom he met in Mexico when she was 17

## Journalist makes news on his 100th birthday

By EDWARD GORMAN

BRITAIN'S oldest working journalist, who handled news copy reporting the end of the First and Second World Wars, celebrated his 100th birthday yesterday by penning another weekly column for the *Aberdeen Press and Journal*.

George Fraser counts Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother among his readers. He writes today of what he calls his "long, long literary road" spanning 78 years as a staff man in Aberdeen, including more than 35 as a columnist.

Mr Fraser, who was born in the reign of Victoria and who was recently invited to tea with the Queen Mother, describes a charmed career apparently unblemished either by dressing downs from edi-

tors or run-ins with his readers. "Suffice it say, then," Mr Fraser writes in his regular Saturday feature *One Man's Week*, "that horizons have been built up for me and it would be no exaggeration to say that the brightest of these have been timed in the opportunities provided me to string words together, decade after decade."

Staff at the *Press and Journal* say they hope he will continue contributing to the paper in his inimitable style for many years to come. Tom Forsyth, who edits his copy, which is still cast in longhand before being knocked out on a battered old typewriter, said Mr Fraser had always written with a flavour redolent of his upbringing.

Mr Fraser officially retired

in 1961. A stationmaster's son, he first joined the *Aberdeen's Daily Journal* in 1917 after completing an MA at the city's university.

He never planned to go into journalism, but a chance meeting with a friend who worked at the paper landed him the job. "I saw the editor, Sir William Maxwell, and was offered the job on the spot."

Apart from a two-year spell in Liverpool he remained with the company throughout his career, including spells as chief sub-editor of the *Evening Express* from 1926 and editor by 1945.

At his home in Aberdeen he said yesterday: "There's no reason why I should stop work now. A lot of people seem to like what I do."



If you'd like to know more about Mr. Jack Daniel and his unique whiskey, write to the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee USA.

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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY









## Hooligans ruin heart of poet's favourite town

By RICHARD DUCE

A WILTSHIRE town lauded by John Betjeman as one of the "most charming and unassuming in the West of England" has called a meeting to tackle juvenile crime.

Many women, young and old, are too frightened to walk the streets of Highworth after dark because of drunken teenagers who congregate in the park or on street corners. A Saturday night rarely passes without a shop window being smashed.

Matters came to a head last month when a choir from South Wales was invited to sing at a concert by the local choral and historical societies. While the choir enjoyed a bar snack in the Saracen's Head afterwards, their coach driver was assaulted.

Town councillors are considering placing closed circuit television cameras in the

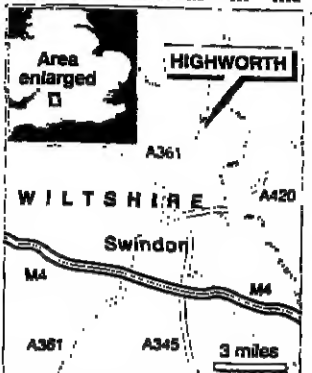
Market Square. But before they take a decision a public meeting to discuss vandalism and violence has been called for by Janet Boddy, chairman of Highworth Historical Society.

She has already written to the Chief Constable of Wiltshire and is offering the suggestion that residents patrol the streets with mobile telephones to report any troublesome incidents.

"Don't think we are sniping at the police, we want to be the eyes and ears of the police," she said. "We do not suggest that we intervene or interfere, just observe and report to the police. I know several elderly ladies who certainly won't go out at night unless escorted and quite a few younger ones as well. The big problem is under-age drinking."

Mrs Boddy's meeting has been scheduled for December 9. The public will be able to address the council about the problem at its scheduled meeting on Tuesday.

David Lane, Highworth town clerk, said yesterday: "I do believe that we have got more than acceptable levels of vandalism. It is an old and well-preserved town. The council was spending thousands of pounds on replacing benches, trees, plants and notices that had been damaged by vandals."



'We always win', PC told man suffocating as five officers held him down

## Police unlawfully killed Irishman, inquest jury rules

By RICHARD DUCE

FIVE police officers could be prosecuted after an inquest jury decided yesterday that a man who suffered 31 injuries during his arrest had been unlawfully killed.

Sir Montague Levine, the coroner, said the constables involved in the arrest of Richard O'Brien, 37, showed an "appalling lack of instruction". The Director of Public Prosecutions will receive a report after the verdict at Southwark, southeast London, despite an earlier decision not to take action.

The inquest was told that Mr O'Brien, an Irishman who weighed 10½ stone, was racially abused by the officers when they arrested him in Walworth on suspicion of being drunk and disorderly after he attended a christening. Mr O'Brien, from east Dulwich fell to the ground and was restrained with his face to the pavement while PC Richard Ilett knelt on his back.

Mr O'Brien's 14-year-old son, also called Richard, was slapped and arrested by another officer after pleading with them to check on his father, who had shouted: "Let



O'Brien: died after being restrained

me up, let me up, I can't breathe. You win!" A police officer is said to have replied: "We always win."

Alison O'Brien said one policeman shouted: "We can't get the big fat Paddy in", before another grabbed her husband by the hair or head and forced him into a van. He was pronounced dead at Walworth police station half an hour later.

Dr Vesna Djurovic, a pathologist, said that Mr O'Brien had 31 separate injuries, including cuts and bruising to his face, a dislodged tooth and fractured ribs. "In my opinion,

he died as a result of postural asphyxia following a struggle against restraint."

PC Ilett said in his evidence that he had shown "nothing but concern" for Mr O'Brien. But Patrick O'Connor, QC, representing the family, held up a photograph of Mr O'Brien showing his bloodstained and battered face and asked the officer: "Does this show your concern?"

Mr O'Connor added: "You and your colleagues killed Mr O'Brien. Mr O'Brien died while you were restraining him on the ground and had your knee between his shoulders for five minutes."

PC Ilett replied: "I am not qualified to answer that." The other constables who restrained Mr O'Brien were Philip Palmer; James Barber; David Magnus and Gary Lockwood. After the verdict Sir Montague recommended that all police officers should have regular retraining courses on methods of restraint used in arrest.

Mrs O'Brien said after the inquest: "I'm delighted. We've got the truth after 18 months. It won't bring my husband back but he may be able to rest in peace."

Alison O'Brien, pictured with her son Richard, was delighted by the verdict

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## Fish campaigners lose appeal against jail

By A STAFF REPORTER

TWO women who tried to stop an angling competition because they believed it was cruel to fish failed yesterday in their High Court attempt to escape jail sentences. Laura Nicol and Diana Selvanayagam were among a group of Animal Rights activists arrested when they threw sticks at anglers' lines and sounded horns during the competition in Albert Park, Middlesbrough.

The pair, who are in their 20s and from Newcastle upon Tyne, refused to be bound over to keep the peace at Cleveland

magistrates and were each given 21 days in custody. John Knowles, their counsel, argued in the High Court that their actions did not constitute a breach of the peace because their behaviour was peaceful.

He said: "There was insufficient evidence that their conduct created a threat of violence." But Lord Justice Simon Brown, dismissing the appeal, said that any angler would be angered by someone throwing sticks at his line, and said: "Had the police not intervened violence must inevitably have erupted."

## Prime Minister YITZHAK RABIN

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**Sunday**  
**12th November 1995**

Doors open 11.02am  
Meeting commences 12.30pm

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The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind QC MP

The Rt Hon Tony Blair MP

The Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP

The President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews,  
Mr Eldred Tabachnik QC

Chairman, The President of the Joint Israel Appeal,  
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John Major has created a dream factory and an all-purpose scapegoat



Members of the Unicorn Children's Theatre in London in rehearsal yesterday for *Pied Piper*. The theatre would have closed but for the £98,000 it received from the lottery to pay for safety works

Camelot's lucky formula proves to be national love of queueing

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

FORM an orderly line... the secret of the National Lottery's success is the British love of queueing. Camelot, the organiser, is about to celebrate its first anniversary with weekly sales of lottery tickets at £65 million, compared with early estimates of £14 million to £35 million.

David Rigg, director of communications for Camelot, said: "One reason why we got our forecasts so wrong was that we seriously underestimated the willingness of the British public to stand in queues." The lottery celebrates its first anniversary on Tuesday, having created more than 100 millionaires and notched up sales of £4.4 billion, exceeding all forecasts.

By today Camelot hopes to have sold 3.3 billion £1 tickets for its weekly draw and 1.1 billion £1 Instant scratchcards. It also expects to have paid out £2.15 billion in prizes and to have handed £1.22 billion to the five bodies responsible for distributing lottery grants to the good causes of the arts, sport, national heritage, charities and the millennium celebrations.

Camelot expects sales to reach £32 billion during its seven-year licence. The company is planning to launch a second on-line game with a midweek draw in the next year or so, which may be televised.

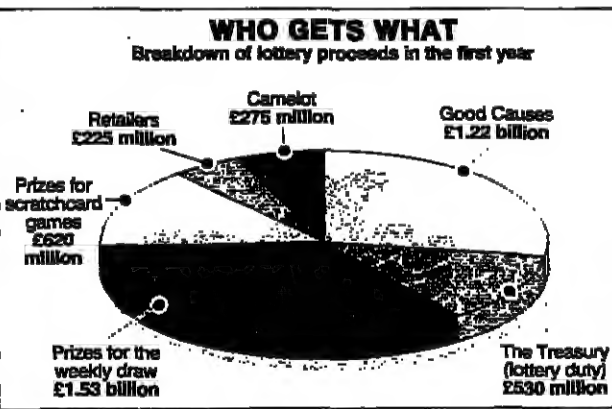
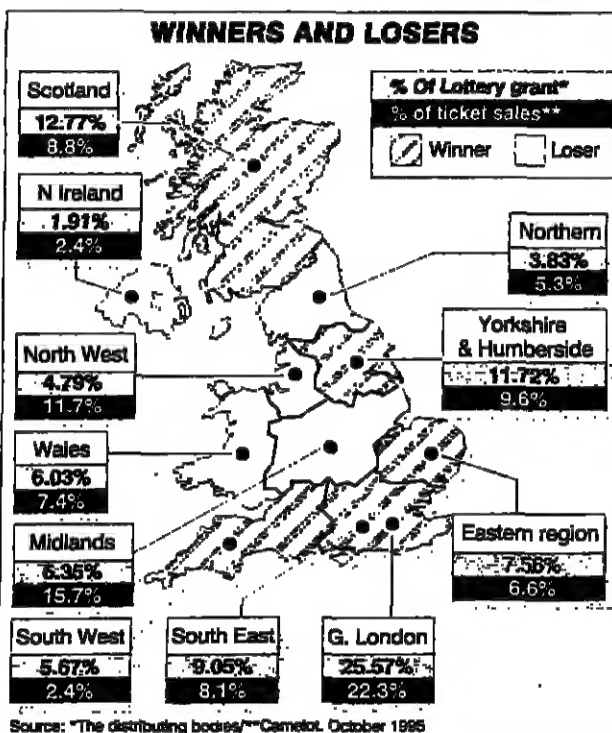
Audiences for the Saturday evening lottery draw on BBC1, hosted by Anthea

Turner, have stabilised at between 11 and 13 million from a peak of 20 million. The company may launch a television game show based on scratchcards.

Members of the Camelot consortium are also considering bidding for the contract to run lotteries in other countries. In the meantime Camelot is cashing in on its brand name with a range of lottery-related merchandise, ranging from key-rings to champagne. Which have seen their donations fall as ticket sales have risen. Shops and pools companies also say their income has been reduced.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations, which represents 650 groups, has estimated that its members are facing a shortfall as high as £300 million in the game's first year. The Council of Churches of Britain and Ireland has said the lottery threatens to unleash a gambling epidemic, affecting the poor and the vulnerable.

A survey published this week by Mintel, a market research company, identified high-spending among people who were potentially least able to afford it. Meanwhile the award of huge grants to apparently "well-off" causes in London and the South has alienated many people who originally believed in the lottery's professed aim of helping "good causes".



Britain left in a spin by first year of lottery fever

By JOE JOSEPH

CAN it be only a year since Noel Edmonds coined the immortal — and, some might say, prescient — phrase: "Now we will have a countdown to the activation of the balls"? Or since the name Anthea Turner meant more to her mother than it did to TV executives with a spare £1 million?

How our lives have changed since we succumbed to a little gamble, what George Orwell, in *The Road to Wigan Pier*, termed "the cheapest of luxuries". We have become a nation of dreamers: some would call us foolish fantasists. The Government warned us we might get rich, but it did not warn us we might also grow demented with gold fever.

People stay at home on Saturday nights to watch the magic numbers drop. Those forced to go out are kept in touch by a network of self-appointed informants. At Sainsbury's on a Saturday night, the winning numbers are trumpeted over the Tannoy system. On the London Underground, station managers might be lackadaisical about telling you which train is next, but are happy to flash the winning numbers on the destination indicators.

Scratchcards have become "the UK's largest impulse purchase brand", according to Camelot, the lottery operator, and people are as likely to receive a clutch of cards for a birthday present as drink or flowers.

The lottery has so transformed our lives that it will almost certainly be the one thing John Major's Government will be remembered for. He has not only engineered a dream factory, he has also created a useful national scapegoat. We now blame the lottery for everything: too few hospitals; too much gambling; a drop in church attendance; too much opera; too little opera.

For newspapers the lottery is heaven sent. News editors no longer fret about empty spaces: there is always a lottery story. "Mother of three who killed her children was depressed over lottery", and "£10,000 lottery ticket snatched" were two recent examples.

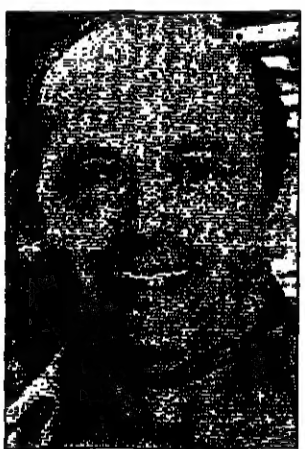
were "36 — her most vital statistic: 5 — the number of times Pam and hubby Tommy Lee made love their first night; 28 — her age; 19 — her wedding day; 15 — Pam's pre-lee toll of lovers; and 1, because she will always be No 1 with us".

People sniggered at Harold Macmillan, calling him "Tie-Tac-Mac", when he launched Premium Bonds 40 years ago. But we are all gamblers now. We do not care that Ladbrokes likens the chances of winning to Elvis landing a UFO on top of the Loch Ness monster. The British spend more on the lottery than on bread. Mothers are accused of moving from the Post Office window where they collect their child benefit to the National Lottery window where they spend it.

Mintel, the market researchers, say 21 per cent of lottery players are new to gambling: women and younger punters are being drawn into an area traditionally dominated by male skilled manual workers. Two women were recently admitted to hospital diagnosed as suffering from "lottomania".

The 4,000 lottery computer terminals sited in Post Offices are so besieged that the layouts of some branches are being redesigned so that regular customers can reach the counters for stamps and TV licences. Corner shops and confectioners with lottery machines have rejoiced at the extra customers flooding through their doors.

So much is being spent on the National Lottery that economists are blaming it for the fall in retail sales. The Treasury is shrinking its forecasts for VAT revenue as a result, because lottery tickets — which account for 4 per cent of British retail sales — do not attract VAT.



Mel Eddison, already a millionaire, won £2.5m



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Farmer is jailed for killing poacher

By A STAFF REPORTER

A FARMER who killed a poacher on his land was jailed yesterday for 18 months. A jury had taken almost seven hours to find Douglas Bailes guilty of manslaughter by a majority verdict.

Teesside Crown Court was told that Bailes, 31, had been plagued by poachers hunting rabbits on his 600-acre Cole Hill Farm, in Elwick, County Durham. When he saw torchlights one night in January, he went out armed with a double-barrelled shotgun.

He said he was worried that the intruders might frighten his pregnant sheep, and he took his gun in case he needed to shoot a dog. In the darkness he came across Martin Vout, a poacher, climbing a fence. Bailes tried to grab the man and then swung his loaded weapon, which went off. Vout, a father-of-two from Murton, Seaham, died instantly from head wounds.

Bailes hid the gun and left his victim in the field. Police and ambulance teams were called later after he contacted his father about the incident. Bailes told the court: "I heard a thud but didn't know the gun had fired until I caught hold of him."

"I know it was wrong but at the time I was frightened for my own safety and it was a split-second decision. I wanted to stop and apprehend him." He was found guilty by a 10-1 verdict. One jury member retired ill. Bailes stood quietly as Mr Justice Poole passed sentence. His distraught wife and family were helped from the public gallery.

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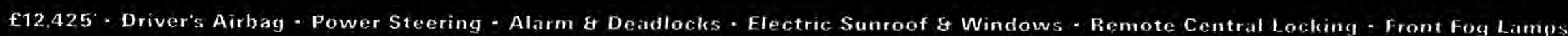
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## Teaching methods 'play a bigger role in education standards' after early years



Kathryn Gray, a part-time assistant, helping at Alderman Jacobs Primary School

# Inspectors say class size makes little difference

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE main political parties redrew battle lines on the key educational issue of class sizes yesterday when school inspectors reported that large teaching groups make no difference to learning beyond the age of seven.

An analysis of 18,000 school inspections found no clear link between the size of classes and the quality of education, rating teaching methods and classroom organisation as more significant. Only in the first years of schooling were small classes beneficial.

Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the study showed that the cost of small reductions in class sizes could not be justified beyond the early years. Even in infant schools, the employment of more classroom assistants might give better value than an extra teacher.

Ministers seized on the report as evidence that the gradual rise in class sizes throughout this decade has

not been damaging. In many primary schools class sizes are above 30, and in some they are over 40.

But Labour insisted that the findings vindicated its proposed limit of 30 pupils per class for children aged five to seven.

Ofsted said the cost of implementing Labour's policy would be at least three times the party's estimate of £60 million. But Labour said extra funding would be directed at schools with the biggest classes and had been carefully calculated with "real education authorities".

Mr Woodhead conceded that many would remain unconvinced by the findings. But he said: "I very much hope the report will be read by head teachers and governors up and down the land, because they need to think about how best to use their resources."

The report says it is common sense that "teaching basic skills of literacy and



Woodhead: hopes heads will take note

numeracy is likely to be more effective when a teacher can devote a significant amount of attention to individual children". But after the early years, it may prove more cost-effective to give teachers longer to prepare lessons or to appoint more classroom assistants, it said.

Effective teaching was found in both small and large classes, the report says. The components included high ex-

pectations of pupils, good planning, enthusiasm and telling pupils of their progress.

Mr Woodhead said he accepted that class sizes could not "go on rising ad infinitum" without damaging the quality of education. But he said it was impossible to set an upper limit because subjects and school circumstances varied too widely.

The response from teaching unions and local education authorities was universally hostile. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said Ofsted's report compromised its independence and it now risked being seen as the "Government's poodle".

The National Association of Primary Education said average state school classes had risen by between two and five pupils this term. Chris Davis, the association chairman, said his members were reporting rises at all ages as a result of the Government's squeeze on local authority spending.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

## The hawk who downed a dove



Yigal Amir

Top foreign correspondents Marie Colvin and Jon Swain investigate the events that led to the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin

The Sunday Times tomorrow

## Primary school with an adult for every 8 pupils

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

FIFTY volunteers and ten paid assistants ensure that children at Alderman Jacobs Primary School are lavished with personal attention. While teachers have an average of 32 children in each class, the extra help from parents and part-timers means there is often an adult for every eight pupils.

Jonathan Spibey, acting head of the school in Whittlesby, Cambridgeshire, said his philosophy was: "The more adults in the room, the better."

Assistants are paid about a quarter of a teacher's salary. Mr Spibey said the school chose a balance between teachers, assistants and volunteers to give it manageable class sizes with several adults in the room.

The 630-pupil school once employed just two full-time assistants but, when they retired, decided to build up a team of ten flexible part-timers who each works 14 hours a week.

Mr Spibey said: "All our non-teacher helpers are superb people. We don't treat the assistants as underdogs in any way, but they are always directed totally by the teacher in charge. They will supervise groups and listen to reading

but they are not left on their own with a whole class.

"It is not a case of using them as cheap teachers. The more help we can get, the better the quality of the lesson."

Several of the paid assistants are trained nurses, one is a secretary who puts her skills to use helping children with computers, and two others have art and design qualifications.

The Government is piloting a specialist teacher assistant certificate to give a new status to classroom helpers at infant level. Will Swann, chairman of the course at the Open University, said it was a year-long programme to work under the direction of a teacher.

He said: "This has nothing to do with a Mum's Army — that was an idea about a non-graduate route to teaching. This is about training classroom assistants."

"We want to give them more knowledge about how children learn and develop a range of skills. Our aim is to make people more skilled in working with individuals and groups of children, although we do not do anything on working with the whole class."

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Two-minute standstill to mark Armistice is revived after almost 60 years

# 'Big Ben seemed to boom louder than ever before'

By Bill Frost

THE two minutes' silence, which the Royal British Legion hopes will bring Britain to a standstill this morning, was introduced by the government of David Lloyd George. It was first observed in 1920 and was upheld until the outbreak of the Second World War.

When peace was declared Remembrance Day was moved to the nearest Sunday to November 11 but the silence was not revived.

The 75th anniversary of this piece of national theatre coincides with a determined effort by the Royal British Legion to ensure that those who fell are never forgotten. Members feared that memories were fading and with them respect for those who never came home. A Cenotaph on a temporary platform was one of the

An Army bomb disposal officer who spent 31 hours defusing a German Second World War bomb that threatened the homes of 4,000 people on the island of Portland has been awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal for courage "of the very highest order". Captain Michael Lobb of the Corps of Royal Engineers was one of more than 140 servicemen and women awarded the medal.

Roll of honour, page 23

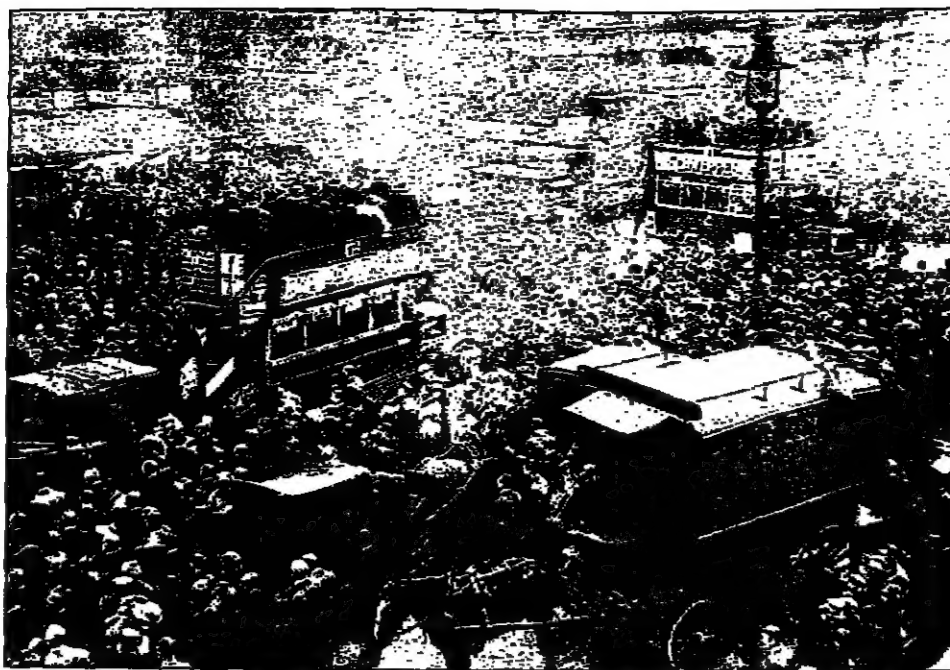
features of the peace procession on the first anniversary of the armistice in 1919. It was decided to make it a permanent feature on Whitehall.

When Sir Edward Lutyens's simple, massive Cenotaph, which resisted the architectural temptations of nymphs and wreaths, was unveiled by the

King on November 11, 1920, the Remembrance Day ceremony, much as it is today, began.

In those days, less constrained by the fear of emotion or cynical indifference, the occasion was perhaps easier to describe. "The first thundering stroke of Big Ben boomed out louder, it seemed, than ever one had heard it, even in the stillness of dawn," *The Times* recorded. "At this high and solemn moment, all noise ceased. Men and women disciplined their bodies so that for two full minutes scarcely a finger moved..."

In 1920 crowds stood silent in the streets all over the country, much as the Royal British Legion hopes they will this morning. But even in the immediate aftermath of the First World War some people in London society ignored the mournful theatre of Armistice



Thousands in Piccadilly stand for the first silence at 11am on November 11, 1920

Day in favour of "Victory balls" at the capital's most expensive hotels and the Albert Hall.

To the fury of those who had lost loved ones or returned wounded, they ate, drank and danced while the rest of the nation mourned the fallen. Eventually, in the face of furious pressure from the Church of England, the Vic-

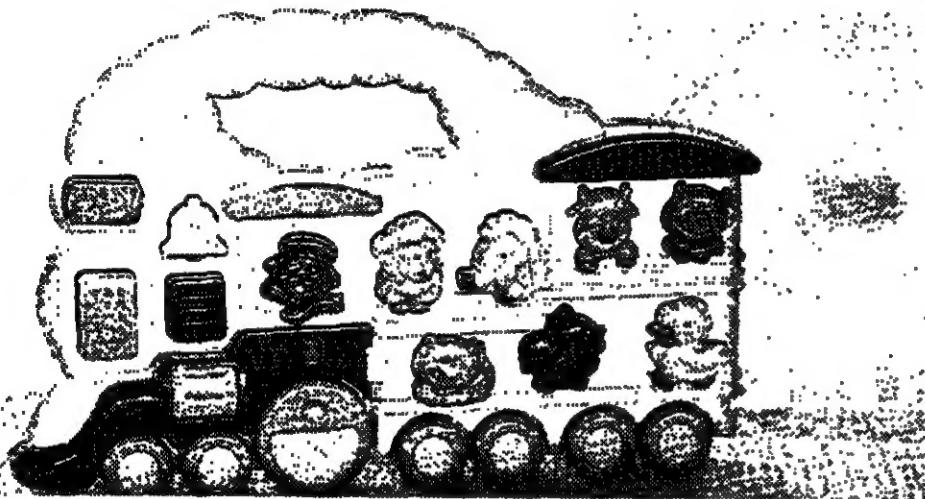
tory balls were abandoned in 1925.

Most people's determination to unite on Remembrance Sunday, however, remained undimmed until the mid-1960s when, against the backdrop of social change, patriotism became unfashionable. Little altered in the 1970s when indifference took over from student radicalism.

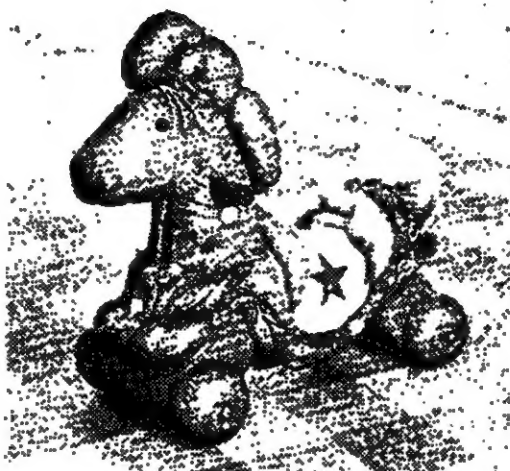
However, the huge public support for the VE and VJ-Day 50th anniversary commemorations this year marked another sharp change in public attitudes and the Royal British Legion decided the time was ripe to reintroduce the two minutes' silence.

Magnus Linklater, page 20

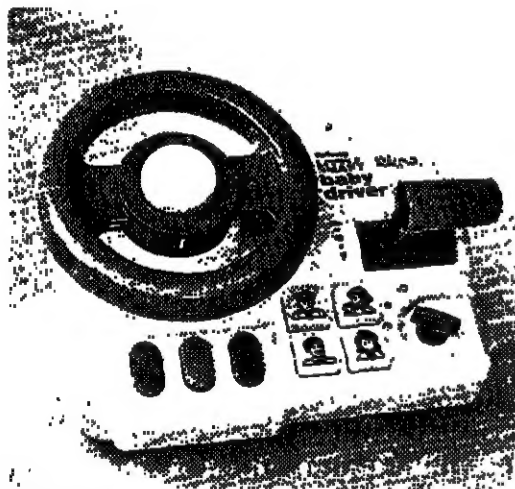
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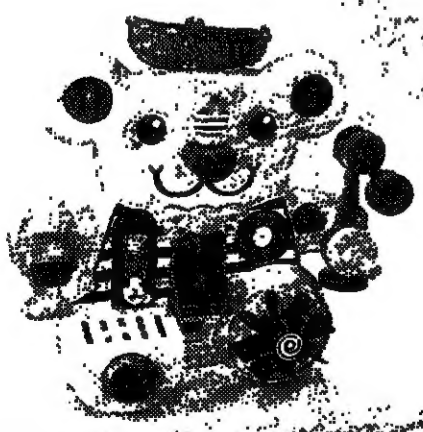
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## Credo

### Many paths on our quest for common goal

Indarjit Singh

BRITAIN'S 500,000 Sikhs have this week been celebrating the birthday of Guru Nanak. For Sikhs it is a little like Christmas, but without the shopping and presents. Gurdwaras (temples) have vied with each other for the best speakers and musicians to provide the right sense of occasion. In Southall, Birmingham and other centres of Sikh population, processions took to the streets to give the day a colourful and festive atmosphere in keeping with the celebrations in India.

This year, a large celebration in the Birmingham City Council chamber was typical of increasing efforts to make the occasion more open to the wider community. It is a move that is particularly welcome, for the main thrust of Guru Nanak's teachings is that true religion has no boundaries. The Guru taught that in God's eyes "there is neither Hindu nor Muslim" and in the same sentiment, neither Sikh, Christian nor Jew, and that God is not interested in religious labels, but in the way we conduct ourselves.

The Guru taught that our different religions were simply different paths on our journey on the mountain of truth. The different terrain at the foothills becomes less evident once we begin to climb and, as we reach higher, our paths frequently merge and mingle.

This recognition of the viability of other paths forms the basis for Sikhism's strong emphasis on religious tolerance and the need for inter-faith dialogue. Sikh belief that no one religion has a monopoly

of truth is further underlined in the Sikh holy Granth, which contains writings of Hindu and Muslim saints as well as those of the Sikh gurus.

Guru Nanak was frank in his discussions with different religious sects and open in his criticism of ritual and superstitious practices that often passed as religion. But despite his frankness, he was loved by all for his honesty and sincerity.

The essence of Guru Nanak's religious philosophy is contained in his composition, the "Japji Sahib". In beautiful poetry the Guru reminds us of the logical attributes of God, the source of all creation, who is not only far greater than we comprehend, but also greater than our ability to comprehend. The composition goes on to remind us that, though we can never understand God's ultimate truth, we can move in its direction - the "gurmukh" direction - through responsible living, the pursuit of knowledge, spiritual endeavour and the courageous use of challenge and opportunity.

While the finer points of the Guru's spiritual message teachings will receive some mention in the gurburp celebration, the congregations in the gurdwaras and at other celebrations will in the main listen to the many stories of Guru Nanak's kindness, concern for the suffering and his deep insight into human behaviour; stories to recharge spiritual batteries that have now become the heritage of us all.

□ Indarjit Singh is Editor of the Sikh Messenger

### Carey hails success of women's ordination

THE Archbishop of Canterbury told a Portuguese newspaper yesterday that the controversial decision by the Anglican Church to ordain women priests was a success and far fewer clergymen had left the Church than feared.

"People predicted 4,000 clergymen would leave the Church of England. But just 250 left," Dr George Carey told the *Independence*. "We have ordained 1,500 women. So I believe the choice was

positive." Dr Carey has been making the first official visit by the head of the Anglican Church to Roman Catholic Portugal. He said Church of England unity with Lutheran churches in Nordic and Baltic states was expected by 1997. "This will transform us into the biggest Christian confessional body in northern Europe."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 13

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NOW SHOWING



Military regime's actions are 'an extension of a dictator's entrenched madness'

## Writer's death on gallows marks dawn of dark age

By SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

THE execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other Ogoni human rights activists on trumped-up murder charges marks the dawn of a new dark age for Nigerians living under an already brutal military regime. Mr Saro-Wiwa was executed while his son, Ken Wiwa, was in Auckland pleading with Commonwealth heads of government to save his father's life.

Extrajudicial executions, particularly in Mr Saro-Wiwa's homeland around Port Harcourt, capital of the Rivers State, have been commonplace in the two years since General Sani Abacha seized power in a bloodless coup. However, according to Femi Falan, Mr Saro-Wiwa's close friend as well as his lawyer, the "judicial" execution of nine members of the non-violent Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni Peoples (MOSOP) is "an extension of an already entrenched madness under a dictatorship".

General Abacha's regime has increasingly relied on extreme methods to contain rising crime and a groundswell of pro-democracy sentiment since the July 1993 elections. These are widely believed to have been won by Chief Moshood Abiola, who has been in detention without trial since early 1994.

Civilian regimes in Nigeria have traditionally been reluctant to carry out death sentences handed down by courts, and many prisoners awaiting execution have been in jail for up to 20 years. In 1994, however, at least 100 people were publicly executed by firing squad, often in front of large crowds gathered in stadiums or racecourses. Several of these macabre events have been televised.

In one case, one of 38 prisoners shot in Enugu, in the southeast, survived. When he begged for water soldiers threw him on to the lorry carrying away the corpses and he was never seen again. This



Wiwa was in Auckland pleading for his father

### 86 executed this year

BEFORE yesterday, at least 86 people were known to have been executed this year in Nigeria — all in public and by firing squad (Our Foreign Staff writes). Most were convicted by Robbery and Firearms Tribunals, which are outside the normal judicial system, says Amnesty International. The courts allow no right of appeal, contravening the human rights standards to which Nigeria is committed.

year General Abacha has used the death sentence to try to silence calls for democracy from some of Nigeria's most eminent figures. General Olusegun Obasanjo, the only Nigerian military head of state to have handed over to civilian authorities peacefully, was sentenced to death with 39 other alleged coup plotters. A former member of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group that went to apartheid South Africa, he and his colleagues were saved when General Abacha bowed to international pressure and commuted their sentences.

In Ogoniland, where Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil conglomerate, had been the target of protracted legal action by Mr Saro-Wiwa and his associates over environmental damage and the non-payment of mineral royalties, the suffering has been most acute.

"Ogoniland is now a zone of military occupation. Nobody can move for fear of being shot by the army," said Deebii Mwaido, Mr Saro-Wiwa's former personal assistant.

In 1992 the Ogoni, who number only about half a million, published a *Bill of Rights* that demanded back rent for the Shell oil wells and self-determination. It was this desire to secede which made them and Mr Saro-Wiwa, their leader, the targets of General Abacha's soldiers. The spectre of secession from central government led to the 1967 Biafran War when the Ibo demanded their own state. A million people died in that conflict, most from starvation.

In addition to their random shooting of men, women and children, troops routinely flog youths. The soldiers are also often encouraged by senior officers to rape Ogoni women and loot villages. One teenage victim, an orphan, told investigators from Human Rights Watch-Africa how soldiers "kicked me and hit my little sister's mouth with a wooden stick... One soldier held each of my legs. Then each of the soldiers took turns. I was lying unconscious in a pool of blood when they left."

The executions of Mr Saro-Wiwa and his MOSOP colleagues are bound to lead to bloodshed in Ogoniland, where Shell abandoned its operations 18 months ago because of insecurity and violence in the area.

Mr Falana said: "No one will be able to sleep soundly in the area for many months to come, and any one thinking they will be able to pump oil again is having a serious dream."

Leading article, page 21



Tom Ikimi, the Nigerian Foreign Minister, after leaving the Commonwealth conference in New Zealand yesterday. He insisted that Ken Saro-Wiwa's conviction had been for murder and not for his political views

## Struggle for Ogoni homeland spawns accusations of genocide

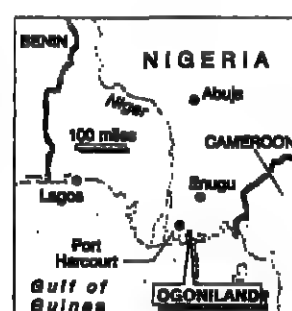
FROM JAMES JUKWEY IN LAGOS

THE execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa has its roots in a campaign by the small Ogoni tribe to reclaim their homeland from the Nigerian Government and the oil giant Shell. Instead of winning the Ogoni self-determination, the struggle has caused bloodshed and division.

Mr Saro-Wiwa, leader of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni Peoples and eight members were sentenced to death last week over the murder of pro-government Ogoni chiefs. The sentences were ratified on Wednesday.

The movement sprang up five years ago to demand self-determination for the 500,000 people of Ogoniland, which lies among the creeks of the Niger delta. It also wanted compensation from Shell, which struck oil there in 1954. The campaign has focused on the devastation its members say has been caused by years of exploitation of crude oil.

In 1992 the group issued the Ogoni Bill of Rights, and gave oil firms 30 days to pay back rents, royalties and compensation for ecological damage. The Ogonis were united in their demands until the presidential elections in 1993, said Tayo Lukula, a journalist



based in Port Harcourt. Then some radical members led by Mr Saro-Wiwa urged an electoral boycott to show they were serious about self-determination. "The boycott of the election was over-

whelming, but some leaders resigned," said Mr Lukula. Since then violence has been rife in the area. A security task force is accused by the movement of committing genocide but the authorities say the force is there to maintain peace.

□ Auckland: Chief Tom Ikimi, Nigeria's Foreign Minister, attacked critics of his country's human rights record, saying he had not come to the Commonwealth conference for an "inquisition". Some Commonwealth states executed people for the mere possession of drugs or chopped off hands for theft, he added.

## Literary giant with common touch

By DANIEL JOHNSON LITERARY EDITOR

THE execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa is a terrible blow, not only for the cause of the Ogoni minority which he championed, but also for Nigerian and African literature.

He made his name as a writer with a brilliant novel about the Biafran War, *Soyakbo: A Novel in Rotten English* was published under his own imprint, Saros International, which he set up with the profits from his grocery business partly to ensure that his own works would not be silenced.

Mr Saro-Wiwa contributed to virtually every branch of literature: plays, novels, poetry, autobiography and essays. But this highly educated intellectual was actually best known in Nigeria and most feared by its military Government — as the scriptwriter of the country's most popular soap opera.

*Basi & Co.*, which was watched by a third of the 100 million Nigerians, combined cheerful entertainment with sharp political satire. It depicted corruption and intimidation with a light touch, never losing contact with the man in the street. *Basi*, the anti-hero, is a con man surrounded by other crooks, profiteers and misfits, and Nigerians recognised themselves and their masters in his milieu.

Once Mr Saro-Wiwa turned from satire to direct political action on behalf of the Ogoni two years ago, the authorities seized their chance to imprison him. An international campaign, led by *The Times*, helped to secure his release.

Those who met Mr Saro-Wiwa describe him as a warm, good-humoured, mercurial figure.

He was nominated for the Nobel Prize, but recognition abroad of the kind enjoyed by his fellow Nigerian, Wole Soyinka, eluded him in his lifetime.

Obituary, page 23

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Echoes of Thatcher in attack on 'fundamentally inaccurate' nuclear condemnation

## Major refuses to sign anti-French statement

FROM NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, IN AUCKLAND

JOHN MAJOR yesterday angrily disowned a Commonwealth statement on French nuclear tests as he unveiled a tough new approach to international negotiations.

In a move reminiscent of Margaret Thatcher at her most implacable, the Prime Minister denounced the text issued at the Commonwealth conference in Auckland as "plain wrong" and released his own version setting out Britain's position.

The move caused consternation because earlier in the day the heads of government had appeared to be inching towards a compromise acceptable to all 52 member states. An initial discussion had gone smoothly with not even Paul Keating, the outspoken Australian Prime Minister, attacking Britain over its refusal to condemn the recent tests at Mururoa atoll.

Judging from the Commonwealth text, Mr Major ap-

peared to have scored a modest negotiating triumph. France was not named, and the statement noted only that the "overwhelming majority" of leaders condemned the current programme. This seemed to meet Mr Major's insistence that he would not be associated with condemnation



Thatcher: set precedent for solo dissent

of France. But in a response which prompted suggestions that he was picking a fight, the Prime Minister strode from the conference chamber to repudiate the outcome of hours of painstaking drafting. He declared to reporters: "What they have got in their statement is fundamentally inaccurate, intellectually inconsistent and unbalanced. I have not signed up to that and they know that."

"I have made it perfectly clear I think the views expressed by our Commonwealth colleagues are just plain wrong, just plain wrong [sic]. That has been my position right the way through and it remains my decision now."

Paragraph five of the six-paragraph "Statement on Disarmament" proved the stumbling block. It said: "Heads of government noted the widespread anger caused by the current programme of nuclear

weapon tests. The overwhelming majority of heads of government condemned this continued nuclear testing, which was inconsistent with the understanding given by the nuclear weapon states to exercise utmost restraint so not to affect the negotiations for the conclusion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996. These heads of government urge the immediate cessation of such testing."

British officials said the second sentence gave the impression that the tests would hold up agreement. In fact, they would have the opposite effect, clearing the way for France to sign, safe in the knowledge that its deterrent was in working order.

Mr Major put out his own document, following the example of his predecessor, who at the 1989 Commonwealth Conference in Malaysia issued a dissenting statement on South African sanctions.



John Major listens with President Masire of Botswana, left, Owen Seymour, the Prime Minister of Barbados, and President Moi of Kenya to a speech in Auckland yesterday

## Dining out for the envoy from Paris

FROM NICHOLAS WOOD AND MICHAEL MUNRO IN AUCKLAND

JACQUES LE BLANC, the French Ambassador to New Zealand, was refused entry to a luncheon in Auckland yesterday hosted by Chief Emeka Anyanwu, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, after turning up uninvited.

M Le Blanc was furious after being turned back by security guards while the Chinese Ambassador was allowed to enter. He identified himself but was unable to produce an invitation to the function, which followed the official opening of the Commonwealth conference.

The gathering included a number of delegation heads, officials, diplomats and journalists. Security staff were under orders to admit only those with invitations, but M Le Blanc believed a standing invitation had been extended to the diplomatic corps.

## Keating apologises to Prime Minister over Pacific dispute

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

PAUL KEATING, the Australian Prime Minister, apologised yesterday to John Major over his outspoken criticism of Britain's refusal to join in the condemnation of French nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

He offered the olive branch before the Prime Minister repudiated the Commonwealth statement on disarmament. Mr Keating approached Mr Major before the opening session of the summit in Auckland and said he had been misreported. He blamed media exaggeration and distortion for the acrimony over the dispute over the tests.

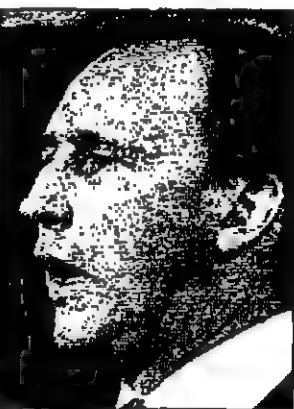
Mr Major accepted the apology and later, as Commonwealth leaders discussed the tests, Mr Keating took a more conciliatory line, highlighting areas of agreement with Britain and reserving his spleen for the French.

However, as a mark of Mr Major's irritation with the Australian leader for his brash comment about Britain's stance, British officials have been playing a cat-and-mouse game over Mr Keating's request for a formal meeting with the Prime Minister. Mr Major has relented and said he would be happy to talk at the weekend.

Mr Keating upset the Prime

Minister by saying he runs conferences in a "school-marmish" way and needed a "little slap with the ruler" to bring him to his senses over the tests. He also joked about the Queen a few days before the conference, recalling the occasion in 1992 when he put his arm around her waist. "The last time there was any media interest in Australia was after that time I tweaked the royal bra strap," he said in a newspaper interview.

Mr Major's associates were delighted by the apology. It is understood Mr Keating is seeking Britain's support to secure a seat on the United Nations Security Council.



Keating: his views were 'distorted by the press'

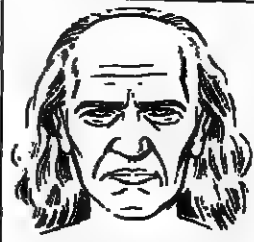
### ADVERTISEMENT

Aristocracy under scrutiny as more Nissans go missing on mainland

## Yard links Almera heist to notorious 'Mr. Big'

THE GOVERNMENT has been left reeling after reports that hundreds of Nissan Almera disappearances in Britain over the last few days are linked to the wealthy and well-to-do. Scotland Yard believe that the mastermind behind the recent multimillion pound off shore heist is the notorious Mr Big, a multimillionaire megalomaniac who is wanted by INTERPOL for a string of large scale crimes across Europe. Evidence suggests that after the heist he recruited friends in high places to carry on the Nissan rustling here in the UK.

### Psychological profiles



Artist's impression of main suspect

of the perpetrators support this theory, and suggest that the nabbers are members of the jet set. A police spokesman told reporters "They are wealthy, powerful and used to the very best things in life."

Police have released an artist's impression of Mr. Big whose true identity and whereabouts are unknown. He has long greying hair, blue eyes, a long pointed nose and an olive complexion. He was last seen in Monte Carlo in 1987.

The motive behind the mysterious disappearances is still unclear, although police have speculated that it may be something to do with the Almera's highly innovative Multilink Beam Suspension system which Nissan developed for their top of the range executive car, the QX.

Nissan have stressed that new Almeras are still readily available from a secret location under high security guard. Any member of the public wishing for more information should call 0345 66 99 66.

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condemnation

Dining on for the envoy from Paris

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Dining on for the envoy from Paris

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Yard links Almera heist to notorious 'Mr. Big'

# Will you squander ALL your savings on DRUGS, WOMEN & expensive homes?

ages, funding of long term care is becoming ever less generous. And stringent means-testing is now in place to determine how much you are liable for. As rules stand, you'll receive no State or local authority assistance whatsoever if you have total assets of over £8,000. And they'll only foot the bill in its entirety if you have total assets of £3,000 or less. Of course, the hope is that your family will rally round. Yet all the evidence is that informal family care - the kind that was taken for granted a generation ago - is becoming steadily less common as society changes its habits. For instance, the number of working women is increasing. The divorce rate is on the up. Families are getting smaller and dispersing geographically. Life, as we are in the habit of saying, is changing.

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protection built in. We invest your lump sum on your behalf, aiming to provide long term capital growth. The insurance premiums are then deducted from the value of the bond. As an added bonus, your investment growth is not taxed at source, but 'rolls up' gross, allowing it to grow all the faster. Of course, the hope is that you'll never need nursing home care. In which case the accrued value of the bond passes to your children or other beneficiaries in full. But if the need for nursing home care does arise, you can rest easy. Because it needn't be your nest egg, or the proceeds of your house, or your children having to foot the bills. It will be Scottish Amicable European. If we've made long term care protection sound all rather serious, that's precisely because it is. Certainly we would suggest you consider your family's requirements and discuss the subject with your financial adviser without delay. In the meantime, call us on 0990 600 200 and we'll send you a free copy of our brochure.

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Somebody once said there were only two things in life you could count on: death and taxes. Well, maybe there's a case for adding another to the list. Nursing home bills.

Nursing home bills. The words have a cosy ring to them, don't they? But the truth is, they can devour your entire lifetime's savings at a speed that's frightening. How fast exactly? Well, hold on to your Parker Knoll: the current going rate

for long term care in a nursing home is around £400 a week. At £20,000 a year, that's almost double the current average pension.

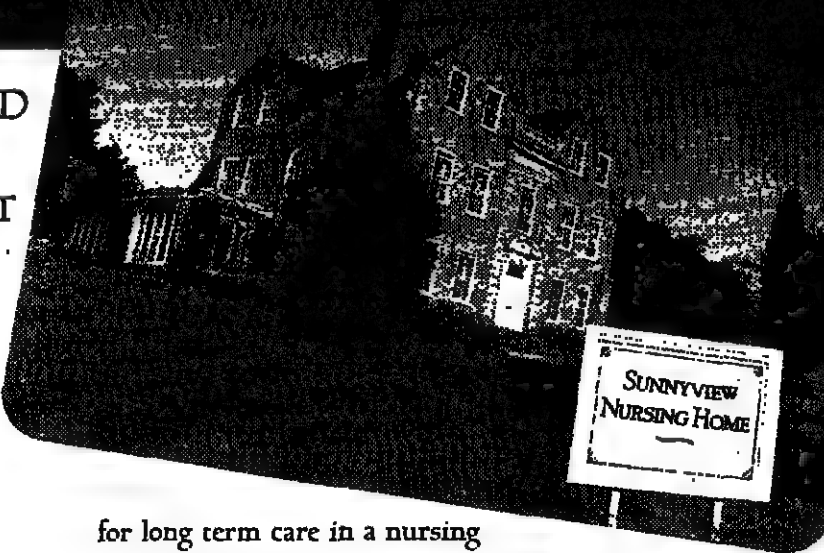
**[ WHAT ABOUT MY NEST EGG? ]**

Ah yes, your nest egg. Well, even if you've carefully salted away £100,000 say, nursing home bills could

whittle that away in no time. And once the nest egg's gone, how soon before you're forced to sell the nest itself? { Just for the record, 40,000 homes were sold to pay for long term care bills in 1992 alone. }

And weren't you hoping to leave all your worldly goods to your children rather than the proprietors of Sunnyview nursing home?

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# More Israelis shift from right wing to rally behind Peres

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

THE first opinion poll published since Yitzhak Rabin's assassination showed a massive shift away from the right wing of Israeli politics and a runaway victory for Shimon Peres, the acting Labour Prime Minister, in any snap election.

The poll, taken on Tuesday and Wednesday by the Dahaf Institute, was published yesterday by *Yediot Ahronot* hours before the sixth suspect in an alleged extreme right-wing plot to sabotage the Middle East peace process by killing Rabin last Saturday appeared before a Tel Aviv court. Like all the others, he was a Jew in his 20s.

According to the poll, Mr Peres would receive 54 per cent if a vote was held now, compared with only 23 per cent for Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the main right-wing opposition Likud Party, who before the killing had been comfortably ahead of Rabin in most of the polls.

Even more significantly for the future of the peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, an unprecedented 74 per cent of Israelis said that the Israeli handover of towns in the occupied West Bank to the Palestinians should continue and only 23 per cent said the Government should freeze the plan as the Likud has been demanding.

The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, will reveal tomorrow the contents of one of the last letters Yitzhak Rabin wrote to him. Rabin writes: "Even within the democratic framework, the call for violence, the use of undemocratic means to destabilise our system and our way of life, cannot and should not be permitted. Compromise and tolerance are essential if peace is to be achieved."

Three per cent did not reply. However, the poll was warmly welcomed in Western embassies as confirmation of the widespread belief that the first assassination of a prime minister in Israel's 47-year history would provoke a backlash against both mainstream and extreme right-wing opponents of the peace process. Tens of thousands of Israelis have been removing anti-government and anti-peace bumper stickers from their cars since the shooting.

Israel's next election is not due to be held until November 1996. Mr Peres has resisted pressure from leftwingers to bring it forward to spring. In the volatile Jewish state, diplomats said it was unclear how long the sudden slump in Likud's fortunes would last. In

the atmosphere of tension and anxiety about more political violence it is hard to see how a proper election with public appearances by politicians could be held. Senior members of the Government believe that other political murders may take place and draconian measures have been imposed to protect ministers.

The Government yesterday also acted to halt the gloating by Jewish extremists after the Rabin killing. The Attorney-General wrote to editors that they could be prosecuted for publishing statements seen as inciting violence. In Jordan, King Hussein attacked the Islamic opposition weekly, *Al-Sabeel*, for a front-page headline about the assassination that ran: "Murderers are one less."

The United States last night offered Israel the assistance of the FBI to help crack the suspected conspiracy behind the Rabin assassination and possible links with American Jewish extremists.

The offer came as ultra-orthodox Jews in New York started a telephone hotline to raise funds for the Prime Minister's assassin, Moshe Gross, its organiser, claimed a large number of calls of support from Jews who considered Yigal Amir, the self-confessed killer, a hero.



The view of Leahy, in Brisbane's *Courier-Mail*, on General Colin Powell's decision not to run for the presidency

## \$4m consolation for Simpson loser

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

MARCIA Clark may have lost the O.J. Simpson trial, but in the ensuing race for multimillion dollar publishing deals she has prevailed through wit, charm — and gender.

Ms Clark landed a \$4.2 million (£2.7 million) book contract without a written proposal or the promise of an established writer to help with the manuscript, it emerged yesterday. Instead, she wooed eight New York publishers in a remarkable series of meetings that left one editor "crushed" not to have signed her. The

lawyer's pugnacious style and tousled hair became household talking points during the year-long trial. She now stands to earn more from the ordeal than Mr Simpson or any of his victorious defence lawyers. Only General Colin Powell and Norman Schwarzkopf have won larger book advances.

Ms Clark's appeal appears to lie in her success in juggling the roles of mother and high-profile attorney, and the fact that more than half of America's book-buyers are women. Arlene Friedman, of Doubleday, said the chief prosecutor emerged as the most interesting chronicler of the trial because she was "a single

mother, a professional battling sexism in the workplace" and had "coped with the media's unprecedented onslaught". Eight publishers entered the auction for her story with the minimum bid set at \$1 million. Three were still in at \$4 million, with the contract going to Viking Penguin. One loser called the final price "crazy", but Viking said the book would be the definitive trial account.

More than 30 books on the Simpson trial are already on the shelves, with at least 14 more planned, including volumes by Ms Clark's fellow prosecutor, Christopher Darden, and three members of the "dream team" of defence lawyers.

## Poll backs Clinton stance on budget

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON received a boost in the polls yesterday in his battle with the Republican Congress over the budget.

With the Government set to shut down for lack of money from midnight on Monday, the Gallup poll showed 60 per cent of those questioned believe that Mr Clinton is right to block the Republicans' plan for balancing the budget through spending cuts in major social programmes while simultaneously cutting taxes.

Other recent polls and a string of Republican reverses in last Tuesday's state elections sent broadly the same message. Even General Colin Powell, now a signed-up member of the Republican Party, expressed concern at the "harshness" of the Republican plan when he announced he would not be a presidential candidate on Wednesday.

Yesterday's poll showed 82 per cent wanted a balanced

budget but 57 per cent said the Republican cuts went too far. Mr Clinton won a 52 per cent approval rating, his highest in 18 months, and enjoyed a ten-point lead over Robert Dole, his likely Republican opponent in the presidential poll.

The stakes in the budget battle are enormous. The plan put forward by Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, and his cohorts to lop roughly \$1,000 billion (£633 billion) off federal spending by 2002 is the cornerstone of a "revolution" designed to roll back "big government". Conversely, this is Mr Clinton's chance to cast himself as the defender of cherished social programmes.

Now, barring some unlikely breakthrough, all non-essential government services will cease on Tuesday. The Treasury is meanwhile preparing to prevent a disastrous default on Wednesday when it is due to pay \$25 billion to holders of securities.

## Gunmen in Algiers kill French nun

Paris: A French nun was shot dead and another left in a coma by suspected Islamic gunmen in Algiers yesterday (Ben Macintyre writes).

Paris issued an urgent appeal for all French citizens in Algeria to leave the country and the Foreign Ministry advised journalists not to travel to Algeria for next week's presidential elections since their safety could not be guaranteed. Thirty French citizens, including 11 priests and nuns, have been murdered by Islamic extremists in Algeria since 1992, where at least 40,000 people have died in political violence.

## Berlusconi loses

Rome: Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, failed to have his forthcoming trial on corruption charges moved from Milan, where he says magistrates are pursuing a political witch-hunt. (Reuter)

## Detainee to sue

Washington: Abraham Ahmad, arrested at Heathrow airport after the Oklahoma City bombing, is seeking damages of \$1.9 million (£1.2 million) over his wrongful detention as a suspect. (Reuter)

## Oil tanker drifts

Muscat: A Panamanian supertanker, the *New Brooklyn*, loaded with 260,000 tonnes of oil has been drifting off Oman after a power failure, threatening the Gulf with a "major disaster", officials said. (AFP)

## Thai ferry sinks

Bangkok: Two people died and 178 were rescued after a ferry packed with tourists heading for the Thai resort island of Ko Samui capsized and sank in the Gulf of Thailand. (AFP)

## Etna explosions

Catania: Mount Etna, the highest active volcano in Europe, was rocked by a series of strong explosions, but Italian officials said there was no danger yet for people living nearby. (Reuter)

## Floods arrest

Cotabato: A Filipino deputy mayor, who allegedly set off an explosion by a volcanic lake in search of Second World War treasures, was arrested for causing floods that killed more than 70 people. (AFP)

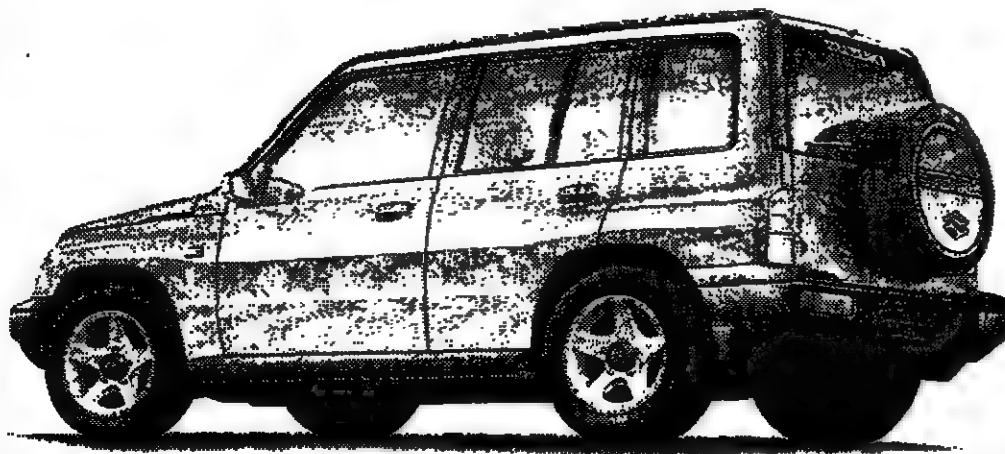
## \$100m support

New York: Princeton, one of America's Ivy League universities, has been given \$100 million by a former undergraduate, Gordon Wu, a builder. It is the largest gift by a foreigner to a US college.



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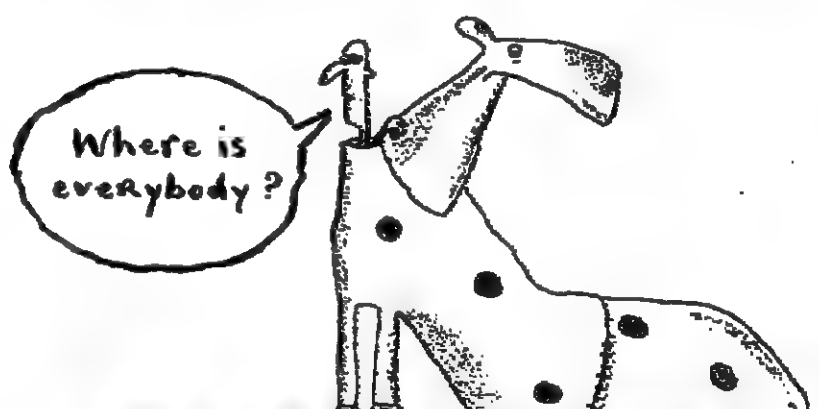
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# Hunt resumed for Nato leader after Lubbers drops out

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE search for a new Nato chief turned into a transatlantic clash yesterday when Ruud Lubbers, the Dutch politician backed by the main European states, stood down after his candidacy was rejected by the United States.

The Dutch Government said it was withdrawing the candidature of Mr Lubbers, who was Prime Minister for 12 years, because Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, had mentioned the opposition in Washington to his appointment as Secretary-General.

The only other candidate, Uffe Ellemann-Jensen of Denmark, restated his desire for the job last night. Officials at Nato headquarters said that the succession to Willy Claes, the Belgian who was forced to resign last month, could take weeks to resolve.

For Mr Lubbers, his country's pre-eminent statesman, the action was the second

public rejection in 18 months. Last year, German objections deprived him of the chance of succeeding Jacques Delors as President of the European Commission. "The Netherlands has put forward its best. If that is not good enough then it is over," said Hans van Mierlo, the Dutch Foreign Minister.

The Hague was seething over the humiliation which it deems to have been inflicted on the country. "This is a bitter blow for our national prestige and a personal tragedy for Mr Lubbers," the Clingendael Institute for International Relations, a think-tank, said.

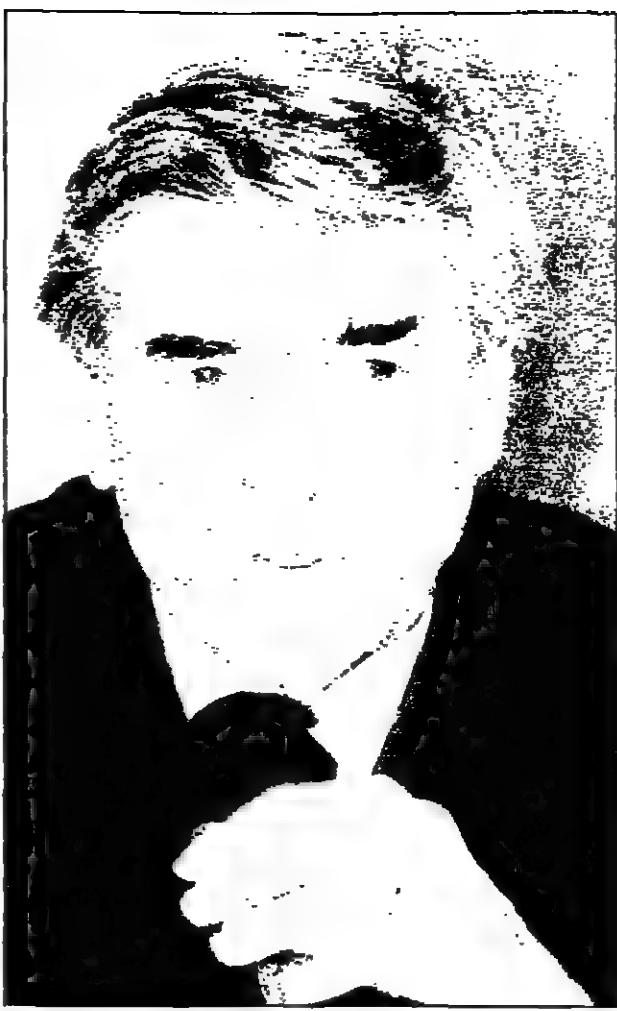
The American action was seen elsewhere as more of a symptom of its irritation over the way in which the appointment of Mr Lubbers had been presented by the European states as a fait accompli. The Secretary-General's post traditionally goes to a European while American generals

serve as Supreme Allied Commander, but as the senior partner, Washington expects to have a big say in the appointment. Officials in Brussels were comparing the case to Britain's objection last year to the Franco-German attempt to impose Jean-Luc Dehaene of Belgium as President of the Commission.

The Americans were irked by the way in which President Chirac promoted Mr Lubbers after rejecting Mr Ellemann-Jensen because he did not speak French. Denmark's opposition to French nuclear testing was seen as a big factor in the French attitude.

Washington officials also alluded to possible skeletons in the Dutchman's cupboard. In the 1980s, he had to defend himself in parliament over suggestions that his brother had gained from government business in the Middle East.

Leading article, page 21



Ruud Lubbers, whose candidature was withdrawn by the Dutch after Washington voiced objections

# Novels capture scandals of dying Mitterrand's reign

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND is dying of cancer but he has already attained literary immortality in a range of new novels depicting the former French President and his long, scandal-plagued reign.

This autumn has seen the publication of no less than four novels portraying the Mitterrand years behind a veil of fiction. While the ailing leader may feel honoured to have inspired an entire literary genre, he will be less happy with the contents which range from merely unflattering to damning.

The model for the principal character in Stéphane Denis's *Histoire de France* could hardly be more obvious: "François Jardin" is born into a bourgeois family, taken prisoner in the Second World War, comes to prominence under the Vichy regime and is elected leader in 1981, and then again seven years later. Like the Socialist President, the fictional François is elegant, cultured and a brilliant political operator; but he is also amoral, cynical, and ready to sacrifice his political principles.

"President Jardin" even

consorts with a former Nazi collaborator: an unmistakable pen-portrait of the former Vichy police chief and one-time friend of M. Mitterrand, René Bousquet. The fictional leader also conceals the truth about his illegitimate daughter. Denis happens to be the *Paris-Match* journalist who broke the story of M. Mitterrand's mistress and daughter.

Une *Affaire Embarrassante*, by Gilles Martin-Chauffier, is a swinging attack on the corruption and cynicism of the Mitterrand

years, clearly based on the notorious "Pechiney affair" of 1988, in which a close friend of the leader bought shares in the American company just a week before a takeover by a state-owned firm.

Then there is *L'Ambitieuse* (The Ambitious Woman) by Max Gallo, which fictionalises the sinister power struggles surrounding the President and which culminates in the suicide of a political adviser in his office in the Elysée. François de Grossouvre, M. Mitterrand's eminence grise, shot himself in his Elysée office last year.

Finally, Jack-Alain Léger's *La Gloire est le Deuil Éclatant du Bonheur* (Glory is the Bright Mourning of Happiness) is an indictment of "champagne socialism", with yet another story of a fraud scandal reminiscent of the Mitterrand era.

The former President's impending death from prostate cancer has inspired little mercy among the novelists. While they may not paint a complimentary picture of his reign, they are, nonetheless, a backhanded testament to his extraordinary influence.



Mitterrand: inspiration for literary plots



## Juan Carlos 'target of blackmail'

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

CARLOS GRANDOS, the Spanish Attorney-General, said yesterday he was investigating claims that two financiers were attempting to blackmail King Juan Carlos to have fraud charges against them dropped.

The national *Diario 16* newspaper yesterday published part of a book by two of its journalists that purports to tell how Mario Conde, the former chairman of the Banesto bank, and Javier de la Rosa, the former agent in Spain for the Kuwaiti Investment Office, were allegedly threatening the monarch.

Señor Conde, 45, who is currently on £10 million bail, was often seen in the pages of *Hola!*, the pictorial gossip magazine, rubbing shoulders with the King during yachting holidays in Majorca. Banesto had to be rescued two years ago when debts of £3 billion were discovered.

Señor de la Rosa, 48, represented the London-based investment office until 1992 and is currently being questioned by a London court over the disappearance of \$450 million (£285 million) from the company. He has repeatedly alleged that the money was used by the Kuwaitis to buy political and military support.

Begum Salimah: wants to sell \$9.5m jewellery

## Aga Khan loses fight over jewels

Geneva: The Aga Khan, one of the world's richest men, yesterday lost a six-week court battle to prevent his former wife, Begum Salimah, from selling a jewellery collection worth an estimated \$15 million (£9.5 million). Christie's, the auctioneers, said part of the proceeds from next Monday's auction are to be used to set up a charitable foundation (Peter Capella writes).

The couple's divorce last March was described by one of the Aga Khan's lawyers as amiable. However, the Aga Khan had argued that many items he had given his wife, a British-born former top model, during their 25-year marriage were family or religious jewels.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES

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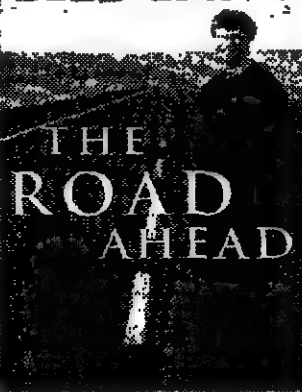


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THISTLE HOTELS



Voters hail left-wing Mayor as 'Saint Antonio' for miraculous regeneration of port city

## Mr Clean steers Naples away from squalid past

TWO years after his election as the Mayor of Naples, Antonio Bassolino is emerging as the Tony Blair of Italy. His "miraculous" regeneration of the chaotic southern city has earmarked him among insiders, as potentially the most charismatic left-wing prime ministerial candidate since Enrico Berlinguer, the Euro-communist leader of the 1970s.

Signor Bassolino, 47, was a little-known former Communist MP before he defeated Alessandra Mussolini, the granddaughter of *Il Duce*, in a hard-fought mayoral contest on December 5, 1993. He quickly won over sceptical Neapolitans by clearing the city centre of traffic to cure some of the worst jams in the Mediterranean region. World leaders attending last year's summit of the Group of Seven leading industrialised nations discovered car-free streets along the Bay of Naples and a dazzling pedestrian precinct in the Piazza del Plebiscito adjoining the Royal Palace.

The successful summit has led to a

ROME FILE  
by JOHN PHILLIPS



boom in tourism. Signor Bassolino, who is probably the only Italian mayor who does not have a car and who has never taken a driving test, is not resting on his laurels. His council, an alliance of the former Communist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), the Greens and the Rete anti-Mafia party, has impressive plans to provide jobs for the 25 per cent of the city workforce that are unemployed. Next year, a huge development project is to be inaugurated to transform the 700-acre former Iva steel plant at Bagnoli into a holiday resort and new homes.

But not everything in Naples has improved since the demise of the city's old bosses. Street crime is still high, with up to 200 thefts recorded each month by

muggers on scooters. The Camorra, the vicious Neapolitan version of the Mafia, also remains a force. Signor Bassolino struck a chord with citizens when he declined to meet a delegation of cigarette smugglers demanding support for their illicit trade. He devised stricter rules for those tendering for city work contracts to keep gangsters from cashing in.

His achievements in the anarchic port city have already distinguished him from the leaders of his party, such as Massimo D'Alema, the PDS secretary, and Walter Veltroni, the editor of the party organ *L'Unità*, who lack experience in running a government.

As Italy prepares for a general election, which is expected to be held next year, observers such as Paolo Bonaiuti, the reputed commentator of *Il Messaggero*, believe that sooner or later the hard-working mayor will be selected as a candidate for higher office and could probably bring the Left to power for the first time in postwar Italy. "Bassolino is the most able up-and-coming man in the PDS," Signor Bonaiuti says. "He would command a large number of votes from the south."

When he walks through the Neapolitan slums, Signor Bassolino sometimes is hailed by passers-by as "Saint Antonio", second in popularity only to Saint Gennaro, the patron of Naples. "This is less blasphemous than it might seem," says the popular magazine *Nol*. "After so many robbers, a gentleman in power is something miraculous."



Antonio Bassolino's reforms have been a breath of fresh air for Neapolitans. He is being widely tipped as the first postwar leader of Italy from the Left

## La Scala pay scales strike a low note

YET another strike call at La Scala has infuriated Milanese opera buffs concerned that the first night of *The Magic Flute* on December 7, to be directed by Riccardo Muti, is in jeopardy.

Sixty per cent of citizens in the northern city are in favour of privatisation of the opera house to resolve its chronic shortage of funds and to end the agitation, according to a poll by the Datamedia market research company.

The board of directors of La Scala this week unanimously approved a proposal by its superintendent, Carlo Fontana, to change its status from a public body to a foundation that would be more open to private sponsors while retaining its existing state funding.

Signor Fontana is lobbying Lamberto Dini, the Prime Minister, to provide tax reductions for donations by private sponsors. Strikes by union members among the 820 employees demanding a new contract last month forced the cancellation of two performances of *Lucia di Lammermoor*. Signor Fontana believes the strikers' grievances are justified in the face of cuts in government arts spending. He hopes the woes of La Scala can be resolved before national celebrations in 2001 to commemorate the centenary of the death of Verdi.

Privately, many Milanese blame some of the vicissitudes of La Scala on the increasingly unpopular Mayor, Marco Formentini, from the devolutionist Northern League. Critics claim that Signor Formentini's difficulties in raising municipal taxes have prevented the city from contributing more funds to the opera house.

## Spielberg lined up for monster sequel

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

THE man who made *Jurassic Park*, the most lucrative film in history, will also direct its sequel.

Steven Spielberg has ended months of speculation and raised the prospect of another blockbuster by agreeing to direct *The Lost World* for Universal Pictures.

Like its predecessor, the film will be based on a novel by Michael Crichton about latter-day dinosaurs bred in a laboratory from fossilised DNA.

Since its release in 1993, *Jurassic Park* has earned about \$913 million (£578 million) internationally at the box office, with further revenue from cuddly dinosaur souvenirs and the film's bestselling home video version. It confirmed Mr Spielberg's reputation as Hollywood's most gold-fingered director.

The sequel will not be released until 1997, by which time *Jurassic Park* will have taken its place in the iconography of pop culture with its own "ride" at the Universal Studios theme park in Hollywood, alongside re-creations of

scenes from Mr Spielberg's earlier successes, *Jaws* and *Back to the Future*.

Mr Crichton's new book, set on a Caribbean island off Costa Rica, has meanwhile become the fastest-selling novel in the history of its publisher, Alfred Knopf. It has been at the top of the bestseller list in *The New York Times* since it was published in September, and there are more than two million copies in print.



Spielberg: reputation for box office success

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OPINION

Where does Sian Edwards's departure from ENO leave the cause of women in the arts?



THEATRE

The Royal Court's latest play, *Waiting Room Germany*, reflects the feelings of a unified nation

THE TIMES ARTS



BASE NOTE

They are still wild about Zappa in Vilnius: the great pioneer is honoured in Lithuania



BASE NOTE

Worries grow about Giulini's health as the veteran maestro cries off his British dates

As Bernard Haitink, the magnificently gloomy Dutchman who is music director at Covent Garden, once remarked: "A conductor never enters an opera house without some axe falling on his head." That's true. Crises, walkouts, tantrums — these are to opera houses what pasta is to Pavarotti. I know little about the precise crises, walkouts and tantrums at English National Opera, where Sian Edwards resigned her post this week as music director. If the more lurid tales are true, the company's daily routine now resembles the Schindler opera that it unwisely staged this year: *Life with an Idiot*. On the other hand, Dennis Marks, ENO's roly-poly boss, points out that attendances are at their highest for five years. As W. S. Gilbert would have said: a most ingenious paradox!

# Why won't men pass on the baton?

was appointed, much was made of her gender. She was seen as a torch-bearer in a profession — conducting — that is notoriously unwelcoming to women. Now the torch has been dropped, and that is disappointing. The startling fact is that in 1995, and in an area — the arts — where people pride themselves on being open-minded, women are practically nowhere on the ladder of power. Just look around you. How many women run major British opera companies, or regularly conduct them? Edwards apart, I cannot think of any. How many run major ballet companies, or regularly make dances for them? One, perhaps two. Men dominate the ballet world. At Sadler's Wells currently we even have the bizarre spectacle of an all-male *Swan Lake* — devised, it seems, so that men

can make a narcissistic examination of the male psyche. No major British orchestra is run by a woman, nor conducted by one. The theatre world is more advanced, both in creative figures (Deborah Warner, Annie Castledine, Katie Mitchell) and dynamic administrators (Ruth Mackenzie, Jude Kelly, Genista McIntosh). But men run the vast majority of major galleries and museums, and what they exhibit is predominantly male art. A new survey is about to reveal that just three in every thousand works of art on show in Britain are by women. All right, galleries cannot turn Old Masters into Old Mistresses. Nor can centuries of social and educational custom be overturned in a day, though one might have expected a little more improvement after decades of supposedly



RICHARD MORRISON

equal opportunities. Nor can it be easy to let off to conduct the New York Phil if you are the mother of a young family. But what is odd about the British arts scene is that many

women are found running minor arts organisations (where the stress and demand on time is probably greater), yet so few manage to seize the really big prizes. Why should this be? One admired woman director told me that "to gain recognition in the arts a woman has to beat not only the old-boy network but also the gay mafia". I find that far-fetched, but the remark reveals how frustration can turn to bitterness when a fine talent is thwarted. The sadness for Great Britain plc is that so much talent is being thwarted, simply because it resides in the wrong gender. I am no fan of tokenism or positive discrimination: merit should determine everything. But at present it doesn't. That is hardly a great advertisement for the enlightening power of the arts.

All of this should be seen in the context of popular culture's extraordinarily male-centred output. I have lost count of the number of television series about sailors, Welsh Guards, paratroopers, bricklayers, and now — following each other on Thursday evenings — "roughnecks" and "rednecks", meaning men working on oilrigs and in the military police. Add to that the ever-increasing time devoted to live football, "nostalgia" football and sports quizzes with ageing prop forwards. To balance all this, it seems to me, the arts ought to be especially women-friendly. Gosh, I am starting to sound like a poor woman's *Janez Street-Porter*. In the unlikely event that I come up for membership of the Garrick Club, the MCC, the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra or

the priesthood of the Roman Catholic Church, I shall of course claim that the above was written while I was under intense psychological duress from my wife. Meanwhile, I stand by every word. The spectacle of journalists meekly letting the Hollywood publicity machine crush them into compliance is commonplace. But I had imagined cartoonists to be made of sterner stuff. Which is why I gawped at a Jak cartoon in the *London Evening Standard* this week. Though ostensibly tackling the subject of public interest immunity certificates, Jak manages to include four mentions of the new Bond film and three references to its star, plus an entire cast list. He also subtly weaves the words "Bond is Back" into the cartoon in four places. Even by his prodigious standards of product placement this is exceptional work. I do hope that he receives a substantial kiss from Miss Moneybags.

THEATRE: True stories of the pains of German unification; and female comedy with a black edge

## Voices call across the lost border

The sixth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall has coincided with readings of new German work at the Royal Court, and both with a sudden hole in the theatre's programme, thanks to the postponement of Nigel Williams's latest play. So the theatre's current offering makes perfect sense. The Court has rushed on stage a piece about the impact of division and reunification that needs nothing more than five performers capable of making monologues crackle. The result is almost always riveting. Whether or not Klaus Pohl models the piece on Anna Devere Smith's tales of street violence in New York and Los Angeles, his methods are similar. He interviewed people in both halves of Germany — from a former Politburo member to a taxi driver, two mayors to a car mechanic — and recorded their memories and views verbatim. If you are not interested in geopolitics, so much the better. The emphasis is less on the pond, more on the frogs and tadpoles surviving inside it. What is it like to "emigrate without going anywhere", as a secretary describes the experience of being wrenched from one system to another? A great man appears, sacks 16,000

### Waiting Room Germany

people, and apologetically explains he is demolishing the factory where you worked all your life because Chinese lenses are cheaper. A rip-off merchant bores a spy-hole in your door, then disappears with your money before putting in the glass. The border guard who regularly turned your car inside out now waves cheerfully, and you can tell him without fear of arrest that you want to kick his teeth in. There are funny moments, but also terrible ones. After all, German lives were manipulated, distorted, destroyed. A young man is expelled from the East because his father is "an enemy of the State", loses his fiancée, hits drugs, and ends up a drifter who feels "cheated of his life". Worse, a house painter is beaten, tortured and imprisoned for years just because he wanted to "go from Germany to Germany". The moment when he arrives penniless in West Berlin and is given a big plateful of cake by a friendly shopkeeper is extraordinarily moving.

Your sympathies tilt this way and that. A psychiatrist somehow escapes a country she calls "a concentration camp full of lunatics", and cannot conceal her bitterness at the financial demands of Easterners who would have obediently watched her public hanging: "You say you've been badly treated. I say you haven't been treated badly enough, you *weasels*." But you also meet a man who was forced by the apparatus to become mayor of Harzgerode, and you believe his bewildered sincerity when he talks of a community betrayed by both systems.

Are there no conclusions to be drawn from the efforts of Robin Soans, Maureen Beattie and the other members of Mary Peate's fine cast? Maybe one. It is summed up by a terrified, fearful academic who lost his wife and family after being bullied and threatened by the party. "Now you can think things you were never allowed to think," he says. "I can speak again. I can walk in the woods." Isn't that worth just about everything?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Neil Dudgeon and Freda Dowle relive the experiences of individuals scarred by the postwar history of Germany

## Comic sisters stand up for their rites

First came *The Posse*, seven black comedians (male) who formed themselves into a touring group to extend their range beyond solo stand-up, and now come seven women. Or rather, five plus two: the five being the comedians and the two (Maria Coffey, Lorraine Le Blanc) dancers obliged to double as visible stage managers and persistently trying to begin their dance routine, only to be shooed off by Angie Le Mar, the writer and queenly commander of the team. They are funny, they are black, they are women, and if by edge they mean the often perilous areas of female raunchiness and black men's frailty, they jump boldly off this edge and then swing back without mishap because their daring comes with cheeky devilment and wit. They poke fun at the pretentious trappings of "black awareness" by bringing on an earnestly vigorous drummer, ethnically clad, to introduce a terribly serious poet speaking fiercely of suffering and breadfruit. They also make fun of fathers who see no logic in supporting their children when the money could be spent on a flash car. The first is just a laugh, and nothing wrong with that, but the second is a sketch that bites, and from all around the audience come cries of recognition from women each time the goody-grinning "man", forever clutching his groin, utters some inanity. Cries of recognition from the men, too. Le Mar is tall and the naughty look comes easily to her; also the tough stance when she plays the singer Sharon Scott's grimly grinning television hostess gives contestants the chance to meet their heroines.

### Funny Black Women on the Edge

Le Mar's Paris will not be hustled off the stage, though Stone, and her aides pile athletically into her, and as the front curtain falls and rises, is seen each time to be bouncing her sturdy weight on yet another assailant. A spoof operatic trio, a fair distance after *Carmen*, stretches two of the singers way beyond their range, and a couple of sketches could do with a crisper response to the cues. But these hesitations are mostly brought about by the vigorous audience participation, calling encouragement to a downtrodden heroine, shouting approval of a vulgar put-

down. I missed the precise message in most of these, though the sense was clear enough. Jo Martin pouts her lip as an abandoned woman — abandoned by her man, and making do with the colour photos in what looked like a gay mag. Adele Johnson and Yvette Rochester Duncan play several young lady types, but all five actresses slip easily into the variety of roles Le Mar provides for them. She herself is a great grinner and a lot of fun. When Coffey and Le Blanc finally get permission, they do a dance so quick and intricate, punctuated with such emphatic shoulder-pulls, that my muscles ached in sympathy. Paulette Goddard's direction keeps the numbers moving swiftly; the frocks glitter with sequins, and the wigs are amazing. JEREMY KINGSTON

BASE NOTES

MORE large holes are appearing in the classical music calendar: the conductor Carlo Maria Giulini has pulled out of two concerts with the Philharmonia in Birmingham and London this month. The 81-year-old Giulini, who was scheduled to conduct Schumann's Third Symphony with the Philharmonia at Symphony Hall in Birmingham on November 24 and at London's Festival Hall a day later, has withdrawn because of ill-health. The concerts, which also Rados Law playing Mozart, will go ahead, with David Zinman conducting.

IT WAS six years ago that David Hare vowed never to work in the New York theatre again, buffeted by the swift closure on Broadway of his play *The Secret Rapture* and by the then *New York Times* critic Frank Rich's harsh words on Hare's own staging of it. In the next 12 months, however, Hare looks set to make up for lost time. His 1990 play *Racing Demon* is now in previews at Lincoln Centre, directed by Richard Eyre and opening on November 20. In addition, Hare's current London hit *Skyline* is expected to arrive on Broadway next autumn with its current National Theatre cast intact.

THE LATE Frank Zappa is to be commemorated with both a statue and a library of memorabilia in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius. He is said to have been a focus of inspiration for many radical musicians and artists in Eastern Europe during the communist years, including the playwright and Czech President, Václav Havel.

SHAKESPEARE'S Globe may be trying to recreate the theatrical magic of 400 years ago, but the people behind it are using the most up-to-date technology to fund their rebuilding project. The International Shakespeare Globe Centre is using NetGain, which enables people around the world to donate money over the Internet by credit card. The site ([www.globe.jc.net](http://www.globe.jc.net)) provides information on the project as well as a donations page. You can buy bricks for £20, while having your name on a seat will cost £500.

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# Beware the smacking police

Libby Purves says children need a firmer hand than this

I trust it is not yet illegal to smack the Gulbenkian Commission on Children and Violence. Naturally, it would be better to reason with it, tell it I am very, very disappointed, and send it to its bedroom. But oh, how the palm itches to deliver a smart clip across its backside!

There they sat at their press conference, well-meaning and wrinkled, the Great and the Good: safely past early parenthood, the kind of thoughtful reformers who when met separately (I can aver) may sheepishly admit that they slapped their own children once or twice in the 1960s, but "aren't proud of it". Yet now from comfortable Olympian heights they demand "an end to the legal tolerance of any level of violence against children". To wit, a ban on smacking. And in drawing all attention to this one absurd demand, they have blown their chance of doing real good to real families.

And no, commissioners, I don't care who started it. I am very cross with all of you. You had a lovely new commission and you spoiled it. You demanded an intrusive and unenforceable law. You provoked even me, which is quite an achievement: for I am a liberal.

Children are not always amenable to verbal rebukes

And no, commissioners, I don't care who started it. I am very cross with all of you. You had a lovely new commission and you spoiled it. You demanded an intrusive and unenforceable law. You provoked even me, which is quite an achievement: for I am a liberal.

But Epoch and the other campaigners will never qualify their demand, never fight a winnable battle against genuine cruelty. No: they want "any level" of what they call "violence" banned, and make it clear that they include the common-or-garden domestic slap on the bum. They even include "restraint", ask them what to do when a child is attacking another or trying to gouge your eyes out because you won't buy another ice-cream and they glare at you and waffle about "positive parenting".

"Hitting children", says Sir William Urring, like a dear unworried old grandfather, "teaches them that violence is the most effective means of getting your own way."

Wrong. Hitting — if you must call the odd mild slap by that emotive name — teaches children that persistent foul and anti-social behaviour can drive those who love you to their limits. Besides, the normal context of family life with small children is very physical indeed. They throw themselves on you and one other, punch, kick, romp, squabble and occasionally bite. You, in return, cuddle and carry, separate and restrain, and occasionally make like a mother cat and bat them. It is part of the language. It makes "No!" more dramatic. It is over in seconds. "No! I've told you three times! NO!" Smack, yowl, cuddle. "There's a good boy now, come on, let's go and see the ducks." This is less exhausting for all parties than

the endless frigid nagging and "withdrawal of approval" and ostentatious taking down of gold stars from the chart, as recommended by the positive parenters.

Are you really saying that this low "level of violence" should be illegal? Are you going to load young parents with even more guilt and self-doubt? Is this piece of impossible controversialism worth the devaluing of the rest of your report, which ensures that the sensible bits won't be heard?

You, commissioners, have done children no service. You have handed a big stick to the grisly bunch of loggers on the far side of the argument, and left undefended the middle ground where children and parents thrive. It was just about tolerable to have the Chief Rabbi piously saying "We are told, the man who spares the rod hates his son" (you know my feelings about rods). But at the other extreme are those who regret the end of the tawse and the birch, and such specimens as Robert Lynn — a professor of psychology, no less, and director of the Ulster Institute for Social Research — who came up with this gem of psychological insight: "On the whole, middle-class children tend to learn [right from wrong] more easily. A raised voice may be all that is needed. Children born into the underclass may not learn so easily. A smack may be necessary."

Well, the idea of smacking the underclass for being found enthusiasts. But experience of middle-class children casts grave doubt on the idea that ancestral Volvo ownership and regular dental care makes them amenable to verbal reproof. I have the scars to prove it. But this nonsense is your fault, commissioners: if you wave a stinking kipper, the local cats will gather.

You could have used this platform to talk about cleaning up foul estates, providing more and safer green places for children to play, and proper policing of their haunts. You could have pointed to the beneficial, if thinly spread, effect of neighbourhood clubs and mother-and-child groups and opportunities for teenagers to learn about parenthood in advance. You could have expressed support for stressed families, and pointed to the usefulness of things like the Family Holiday Association, which sends them away to the seaside to relax and let natural love flower afresh away from impossible surroundings. Or of those who run babysitting services to break up the grim cramped togetherness of poverty.

Instead, you asked for a law which would be draconian, unnatural and, almost worse, laughably unenforceable. On the same day, our local news carried a report on an estate where the fire brigade no longer dares answer 999 calls without a police escort. It didn't make the national media: too commonplace. How the smacking police are going to cope down there I cannot think.

Why are we still haunted by stories of the First World War, asks Magnus Linklater

# When memories become too much

Revisiting old memories can be a profoundly emotional experience, as Enoch Powell reveals so movingly on television tonight. In the BBC2 film *Odd Man Out*, he sheds silent tears as he reads a verse he composed as a young man to a girl he loved and lost. It is a moment that will stay in the minds of all who watch it. "I am so overcome by emotion, old emotion," he said. "I failed. I was not satisfactory. That's it."

It was particularly affecting, because Mr Powell has always come across as a man in control of his feelings, the epitome of the classical mind in command of the romantic. But then I wondered whether that sense of something deeper had more to do with the memories of his generation, rather than just the man. One cannot quite call Powell (born in 1912) part of the First World War era, but he grew up in its shadow, and when those whose families lived through it think back, they are remembering something that touched them more than anything else this century. They are remembering not just lost youth, but the lost hopes of a generation.

When Vera Britain wrote her *Testament of Youth* in 1933, she spoke of the "incomparable changes" that she had seen, but also of

something which she felt had profoundly changed society. Her daughter, Shirley Williams, who wrote a preface to the new edition, said of the war: "It has marked all of us who were in any way associated with it. Even at one generation's remove through our parents... Why are we so haunted? I think it is because of the terrible irony of war: the idealism and high-mindedness that led boys and men in their hundreds of thousands to volunteer to fight and often to die... the total imbalance between the causes for which the war was fought on both sides, [and] the scale of the human sacrifice."

As I watched Enoch Powell, I remembered my father and his ambivalent feelings about the war. He joined the 4th Gordon Highlanders in 1914, aged 15, having lied about his age. He was spotted and promptly discharged

because he was narrow-shouldered, short-sighted and far too small for his uniform. A year later, he lied again, added a year to his age, adjusted his eyesight and managed to get drafted into the Black Watch. Horribly wounded in the head in the German advance in March 1918, he was shipped back more dead than alive. His life had been saved by his sergeant, who dragged him back to safety. He managed to keep the helmet he was wearing at the time. It had a small, neat hole in the side, and a jagged one where the bullet had come out at the back.

How he survived I do not know, but ever afterwards he had a deep dent in the back of his head. As children we used to pretend to post letters in it. I was struck by the description given by Pat Barker, winner of the Booker Prize, of her grandfather, also wounded in the

Great War. She remembers putting her fingers into the deep bayonet wound he had suffered. Our memories are remarkably similar.

But if war left its physical aftermath, the recollections were often buried deep. For most of his life, my father would never speak of the war. He had been a sniper, that we knew, but the only stories he told were jolly ones: how, on a forced march in the pouring rain, his battalion were ordered to remove their kilts and put them over their heads. He remembered the sight of bare bottoms under flapping grey shirts as one of rich humour. And he recalled too the line of wounded soldiers being delivered by train at Ostend, where the Indo-Chinese dockers fell about laughing at the sight of limping warriors, bandaged, crutch-aided, stretcher-carried, as they struggled towards the ships.

It was only in the last few years of his life that he began to speak of what had clearly been terrible scenes. Of the Germans he had shot, the men he had seen being killed. These were stories which were painful to tell, and painful to listen to. They seemed so surface unbidden, as if it were impossible to keep them suppressed any longer. And one could understand why he had kept them buried so long. They revealed the huge gulf that lies between those who fought in and were affected by that war, and those for whom war was only an idea. What was unbridgeable too was the gap between the idealism which inspired those who set out to fight and the crushing of those ideals. It may even have echoed Enoch Powell's tortured thought that he had "failed".

It may be that I exaggerate when I see something of that pain in Powell's recollections. But I fancy there is something in it, and that there is a diminishing generation who still feel the heavy hand of that war and its aftermath can never quite escape it. As Wilfred Owen wrote in *The Send-Off*:

Shall they return to beatings of great bells  
In wild train-loads?  
A few, a few, too few for drums  
and yells...

# A Lord Mayor for all

Give us the musketeers and we will bring democracy back to the capital — with pageantry to boot

The Lord Mayor of London is dead, long live the Lord Mayor of London. This afternoon's Lord Mayor's Show is Britain's most exotic civic coronation. Marshals and musketeers, chamberlains and criers, swordbearers and sergeants-at-arms, pikemen and plumed in brass and leather will wander the bleak caverns of the City like extras from a Robin Hood movie. Aldermen, sheriffs and lieutenants will jostle with remembrancers and conveners. The mayor's coach will be dragged from its museum by Whitebread Shires to outdazzle even the chariots of the Crown. The show is a modern festival of the suits, a carnival of the uncamp. It is truly strange.

I used to attend the Lord Mayor's Show as a child, standing on tiptoe in

has no role for them. So the dear old City enjoys a charmed life. It obeys the iron law of institutional survival in Britain: you are left in peace provided you neither burden nor obstruct the agents of the Crown and take care to feed them well. When in 1985 the Greater London Council broke all three conditions, particularly the third, it was slaughtered.

The City is a glorious anachronism. It donates £800 million in business rates to the Exchequer as political Danegeld, more than the whole of Wales. For a quarter-century it has happily gone about its business, building itself mini-motorways, demolishing old buildings, piling up concrete, but otherwise adhering to Johnson's dictum that no man is more innocently employed than in getting money. The City does

Simon Jenkins

harm to no man — and to no women except those who presume to seek the mayoralty. Each year amid the November gloom, it summons hundreds of its commuters to come up to town on their day off, put on strange clothes and troop through otherwise deserted streets to the Temple bars. There they glare westwards over the thundering anvils of the glamorous, sinful, popular City of Westminster, and return to drown their pride in another Guildhall banquet.

One response to all this is that of the present Government. It holds that the British Establishment — academic, civic — suffers from a craving for ermine, tights and funny hats and for parading round an otherwise bleak townscape showing off. These people do not fight each other or frighten horses. Their impact on the public sector borrowing requirement is minimal. They satisfy tourism's yearning for photogenic eccentricity. Like the monarchy, they are a symbolic relic of days when the British constitution still displayed some separation of powers. As such they are an opium of the people and probably deserve a grant.

My response is different. When, at Margaret Thatcher's bidding, Kenneth Baker abolished the Greater London Council, he transferred virtually all of its powers to Whitehall. Few Londoners felt any immediate loss. Planning and transport became



Cruikshank's view of the Lord Mayor's Show: but why stop at the limits of the City?

more corrupt and inept, and Exchequer spending on London soared. But that always happens when Tories turn corporatist. What Mr Baker did admit (and repeats in his memoirs) was that he found it hard to justify the fact that London no longer had anything that could pass for a "voice", in contrast to every other city in the world. In other words, showy London with junior ministers, quangos, patronage and cash, and still an ungrateful metropolis wants some distinct embodiment of its identity.

Even to a fanatical centralist such as Mr Baker this was mildly embarrassing. The rotting carcass of London democracy, County Hall, lies buried on the banks of the Thames where Mr Baker slew it. In every opinion poll taken since then, Londoners have demanded a replacement, by a margin of five to one. They want an elected mayor or a chairman or a council or an assembly, anything

that represents London at home and abroad as spokesman and cheerleader. At very least they want a "head of the civic state". Only the most cynical and undemocratic of politicians can dismiss this want as trivial.

I believe that this voice could be what it was at least until the explosion of London's borders in the last century: that of the City's Lord Mayor. The Corporation has power under existing statute to create a "joint committee". It could invite elected leaders from the 32 London boroughs to join such a committee as aldermen, who would in turn elect the Lord Mayor.

The City's domestic government need not be affected. The new mayor would have no powers other than those of example and persuasion. But he would be unequivocally the representative of the metropolis as a whole. He would have a democratic and geographical legitimacy

that the present Lord Mayor lacks.

My impression is that the modern City Corporation is alive to its vulnerability. As a future Labour government casts its shadow forward, the City knows its arcane powers and privileges are at risk. The corporation might also recognise its historic status as fount and origin of London's prosperity (recounted in David Kynaston's admirable new history of the Victorian City). To offer at least a small first restoration of democratic government for all of London would honour that status. Such a mayor would be an elected official, indirectly elected to the office. With the perquisites of the Lord Mayorality thrown in, he would be a public and visible face of the metropolis.

Then we would watch the Lord Mayor's Show come alive. Parades would come from Bermondsey and Southall, from Brixton and Ladbroke Grove, from Soho and Chinatown. There would be Napoleons from Notting Hill and Passports to Pimlico. The show would no longer have to stop at Temple Bar. It would take the royal road down the Strand to Trafalgar Square and spread its tentacles north, south, east and west. Downing Street would be appalled at these first stirrings of popular reaction against its contempt for local democracy. And there is nothing that could stop its progress — nothing short of Michael Howard's policemen. My Lord Mayor's musketeers should be a match for them.

## BARD BITES BACK

Regretably, I cannot acknowledge the sackful of entries for my Bard Bites Back quiz. The first correct answer was from the Churcher family of Ashurst, Southampton, to whom the prize. The answers in sequence are: R & J III, ii; R & J, II, iv; Shrew, IV, iii; 3H6, V, v; Love's Lab. V, i; IHA, V, iv; IHA, I, iii; HS, V, ii; AYL, III, v; Much Ado, V, iv; Temp, II, ii; Lear, IV, v; Love's Lab. V, ii; Hamlet III, ii; IHA, II, iv; IHA, V, iv; IHA, III, iii; Wives, II, i; T Night, II, iii; T Night, II, v; Dream, V, i; Much Ado, V, ii; Timon, V, i; AYL, III, ii; HS, V, i. Thanks also to Patrick Barnett for:

And careful hours, with Times deformed hand  
Have written strange defeats in my face. (Comedy of Errors, V, i)

# Wilde idea

THE LITERARY world is abuzz with news of a new award, to the tune of £30,000, to be announced by the Oscar Wilde Society. Beginning in 1997, on the centenary of Wilde's release from Reading, the award for unpublished new writers would be worth £7,000 more than the Whitbread and £10,000 more than the Booker.

The only hitch is finding sponsorship. A spokesman believes the British still find it hard to come to terms with the author's homosexuality. "When it's Oscar, it's very hard raising money," he declares. "We have approached the Japanese Wilde Society, where he is revered and taken very seriously."

Methuen, who reissued Wilde's work in 1910 after his death and contributed to his memorial window in Westminster Abbey, wants to publish the winning works, but will not contribute the prize money.

Geoffrey Strachan of Methuen says: "We've had tentative discussions. It is a good idea, and one that we are interested in, and personally I'm a great admirer of Wilde."

Merlin Holland, Wilde's grandson, is delighted. "It's a good idea,

and one that has been brewing for a number of years," he says. "It will go towards helping people understand that there's a lot more to him than *The Importance of Being Earnest*."

Colonel Michael Vernon-Powell, a key figure in the Royal British Legion's campaign to reinstate Armistice Day's two minutes' silence today, cannot guarantee that



all members of his own family will abide by it. His first grandchild, Harriet, was born yesterday.

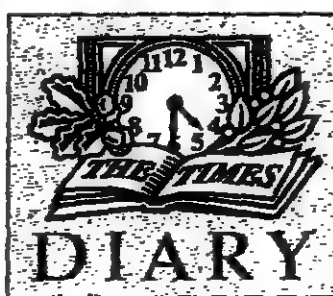
## First green

PRESIDENT CLINTON's decision to abandon his research into his Celtic roots (the genealogical trail is distinctly faint) leaves him with some spare time on his trip to Ireland later this month. Hence plans are being hatched to set up a game of golf at the famous Ballybunion course in Co Kerry with the legendary American player Tom Watson.

White House watchers say Clinton's game should not be underestimated. Since he has rebuilt the putting green, originally constructed by Eisenhower and then removed by Nixon, just 50 yards from the Oval Office he has been seen practising up to five times a week.

## Girls, girls

HEADMISTRESSES are made of stern stuff, but the venue for the next Girls' Schools Association may test the nerves of the tweediest of their ilk. The 200 heads of girls' schools will gather next week at London's Cumberland Hotel. A



convenient hotel at the top of Oxford Street, the Cumberland is well known to gentlemen engaging in brief liaisons with the fairer sex. The bar is frequently the setting for such delights.

An association spokeswoman says that the president — Mrs Penelope Pacey from Haberdashers' Aske's, Epsom, this year — picks the annual venue. "It is left entirely to the president's discretion," she says firmly. Headmistresses would be well advised to march in a crocodile.

## Unattired

WATCH OUT Windermere. The hellraising actor Mickey Rourke, in Britain with his model wife, Carré Otis, fancies a tranquil break

in the Lake District. It may be much needed as the tattooed pair's relationship has been explosive and has included a period of estrangement after accusations — later dropped — that he had beaten her up.

But in the elegant surroundings of Spencer House, St James's, on Thursday night amid legions of rubber men in grey suits for the launch of Pirelli's 1996 calendar, in which Otis features, the couple bickered good-naturedly over the dust of lobster.

"We're here for a week," said Otis. "No, at least ten days," corrected Rourke. "A week. And I have to work!" "I'm on holiday and I want to stay in the Lakes," Otis stood up, collected her model friend Tajana Patiz and the two retreated to the bathroom like a pair of giraffes.

## Tam him

TONY BLAIR's grip on his more rebellious MPs tightens daily. The latest convert may be Tam Dalyell, the veteran individualist who to date has gleefully stuck to his guns. For now word comes from Scotland that after 20 years opposing devolution, Dalyell will back the party line tomorrow.



Otis: better than Michelin man

Blair called in the Old Etonian in January for a ticking-off for speaking against devolution. Dalyell's constituency officials cringed at his refusal to sign the "claim of rights", the document signed by all Labour's Scottish MPs. Now his agent, Brian Fairley, predicts a softer line. "Tam has given a cate-

gorical assurance that he will support any Bill all the way. He is absolutely clear on that."

By coincidence, the reselection process for Dalyell's Lindisfarne seat also commences tomorrow.

## And so to bed

WHEN YOU'VE been married for 56 years, what do you do for birthday presents? Michael Denison and Dulcie Gray, whose partnership must surely be one of the longest in the theatre, celebrated their 80th and 76th birthdays respectively with a party at the Lansdowne Club in Mayfair yesterday, attended by similarly venerable friends, including Sir John and Lady Mills, Donald Sinden and Sir Denis Compton. Denison explained that they had decided on a joint present: it was practical but not unromantic.

"We decided to buy a new mattress for our four-poster bed," he said. "We've been sleeping on the one we've got for 20 years and someone else had been sleeping on it for at least 20 years before that. It is full of ridges and furrows so we thought it was time we stretched to a new one."

P.H.S





# ABACHA'S CRIME

A Nigerian noose around the neck of free speech

The execution of the Nigerian playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa, hanged with his eight colleagues yesterday, is an act of judicial murder. It followed, as John Major said yesterday, "a bad trial, a bad judgment and an unjust sentence". Even in a country which in recent years has made a habit of abusing its judicial machinery for political ends, the Nigerian regime's stubborn rejection of reason or mercy in this tragic case, whose victims have by no semblance of proof been found guilty of murder as charged, has particular power to anger.

There is special sadness in the persecution and ultimate silencing of Mr Saro-Wiwa as a writer, in a country once celebrated in Africa for the vividness of its literary life and the robust freedom of its press. In the 1993 prison diaries he wrote after an earlier arrest he wrote movingly of his "cell of the damned of the earth, who shriek and chant by turns". His crusade was not just for his own people, the Ogoni, but for all Nigerians, "leaderless and thoroughly misled". It must be continued.

There will be universal repugnance at the indignities thrust on these men from the moment of their arrest, and at the callousness shown to their anguished wives, denied even the right to take food and comfort to them in the last hours of their lives. There will be especial disgust that these men appear to have been put to death for the basest of reasons: the Nigerian dictatorship's determination to demonstrate its arrogant contempt for world opinion.

The announcement of the hangings followed within hours Nigeria's official confirmation that the unanimous and urgent plea for clemency by Commonwealth heads of government had been received by General Sani Abacha. The summit should immediately show the door to Nigeria's Foreign Minister, Tom Ikimi, whose sole purpose in coming to Auckland appears to have been to vilify the condemned men and to denounce international criticism as an "inquisition". Commonwealth leaders must, in their retreat this weekend, then face the fact that Nelson Mandela's preferred policy of "direct contact" with this vile regime self-evidently has no future.

Nigeria should be suspended forthwith from the Commonwealth: to do otherwise would be a betrayal of Nigeria's immiserated people. It has also to be faced, however, that Nigeria's junta probably does not care what the Commonwealth does. These executions are part of a countrywide repression of utter brutality, marked by arbitrary arrests, detention without trial, extrajudicial force when trials do take place and prisons so calculatedly appalling that sickness and malnutrition are rife and on occasion fatal. There is absolutely no reason to believe that General Abacha or his henchmen will ever willingly relinquish power: they are too far steeped in blood to take the risk that the rule of law might once again apply in Nigeria.

Disgust must therefore be given further practical expression. The Commonwealth is placed to take a lead with an arms embargo which Britain should then seek to make mandatory under the United Nations. That will be the more effective if Nigeria's military men are denied the oil revenues which are their only means of paying for weaponry. There must be no more export credits; and no aid other than that channelled through voluntary agencies for strictly humanitarian purposes. There must be no rescheduling of the country's enormous debt, or welcome abroad for the representatives of this regime. By contrast to the freeze on official contacts, governments should adopt pragmatic, humanitarian policies towards Nigerians forced into exile by the regime's merciless repression of political dissent, and to the families of prisoners in need of temporary refuge.

Sanctions are a blunt and inefficient weapon and the argument that they hurt the poor before the rich has considerable force: but it scarcely applies to Nigeria. Its ruling kleptocrats have treated the country's oil wells as a lottery to which they alone have tickets. For ordinary people, the situation is already so desperate that they are reduced to subsistence. This is a national drama of which Mr Saro-Wiwa, from prison, lamented as far back as 1993: "I feel sad that I cannot contribute to the end." Britain must help to write the next chapter.

# A DUTCHMAN DERAILED

Clinton talks about Nato leadership — but cannot deliver

Ruud Lubbers, The Netherlands' longest serving Prime Minister this century and once a British-backed candidate to run the European Commission, yesterday withdrew as a candidate to become Secretary-General of Nato. He stepped back in the face of an American veto. A US Administration which professes itself keen to build up European influence over defence vetoed the man endorsed by Britain, France, Germany and Spain. The alliance should ask whether America had just cause to frustrate Mr Lubbers, for the use of Washington's blocking powers makes little sense.

When the beleaguered Willy Claes resigned last month, we argued that the new civilian head of the alliance needed to be someone of "exceptional stature and experience". Powerful voices in Washington felt that a heavyweight persuader was needed. Nato may have to put a sizeable peace force into the field in Bosnia at short notice; it must respond both to Eastern Europe's wish to join the alliance and Russia's fear of encirclement, and find itself a mobilising purpose for the future. Since the deployment of American troops in Bosnia will not be popular in Congress, the quality of Nato's advocacy matters.

But these questions did not open up for the first time when Mr Claes finally quit last month. There had been months of speculation over a Belgian bribery scandal. By last spring at the latest, Washington must have known that a discreet search for stronger candidates should have produced clear results long before the job fell vacant. If America had been ahead, instead of behind, the game, its policymakers would have been able to conclude on the need to settle for a politician from a smaller state. Questioned

about their ideal preferences, Washington officials have resorted to a diplomatic version of Fantasy Football, imagining dream candidates such as the German Defence Minister Volker Ruhe or Mr Douglas Hurd. One could add the claims of Lord Howe, Sir Leon Brittan, Mr Malcolm Rifkind or even Michael Heseltine. Such men are all admirably qualified but for one small snag: not one of them has shown both a convincing wish to do the job or a capacity to attract enough support to win.

When Claes left office, Britain, France and Germany kept in mind regular American appeals for Europe to act decisively and cohesively over defence, and made known their preference for Mr Lubbers. The suggestion from Washington that the endorsements of the Dutch candidate came as a surprise or *fait accompli* are ridiculous. The State Department maintains large embassies across Europe and at Nato which alerted Washington to the drift of events before John Major, President Chirac and Chancellor Kohl announced their support for Mr Lubbers.

The three leaders underestimated the superficial and chaotic manner in which transatlantic relations are now handled in Washington. Moved by fear that America would look weak in the face of European dictation, a show of strength was organised and Mr Lubbers derailed. If the Clinton Administration can either endorse Denmark's Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, a perfectly respectable candidate, or produce someone better, the affair will have left only a sour taste. But if deadlock now paralyses the alliance, President Clinton will have shown that he can talk energetically about American leadership in Nato but that he cannot exercise it.

# MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR

Why the Beatles are still worth a souvenir

Today, in the Magazine, *The Times* devotes bright pages of text and photographs to a jaunty pop group from the past. Our aim is, in small part, to celebrate the forthcoming release of *The Beatles Anthology*, a collection of previously unpublished recordings of the Fab Four. Our broader aim, it must be said, is to emphasise the importance to Western popular culture of The Beatles — both as troubadours for a generation as well as the truthful mirror of an erratic decade.

The Beatles songs — from *Love Me Do* to *I Me Mine*, the last recorded — are no less than a musical Bayeux Tapestry for the Sixties. Serious historians should treat these recordings as among the period's most telling "documents", easily on a par with Cabinet papers, *sanizdat* newspapers from Eastern Europe or Vietnam War records. In a subtle book about the Beatles called *Revolution in the Head* — as scholarly as it is star-struck — Ian MacDonald argues that the group "were the authentic religious voice of the Atomic Age", a voice which has now "passed into the pantheon of permanent regard". That last phrase is the most acute, for it speaks of a spell that is more powerful by far

than mere nostalgia. Of course it is the Sixties generation, now grown as middle-aged as its beloved Liverpoolian quartet, which is still most devoted to the music and meaning of The Beatles. But younger listeners, many born after the group dissolved its partnership — and to whom the Sixties must seem like a time of *enviable* optimism — are almost as much in The Beatles' thrall. To them the joyous energy of, say, *I Want To Hold Your Hand* — if not the culturally subversive charge it packed in its time — is as immediately apparent as in any modern song.

That song was recorded in October 1963. Two months later William Mann, then the music critic of *The Times*, wrote in praise of the Beatles, perhaps a touch daringly for the paper at the time. At the end of an essay littered with references to their music's intriguing "pandemonic clusters" and "the Aeolian cadence at the end of *Not A Second Time*", he concluded disarmingly that the group had "brought a distinctive and exhilarating flavour into a genre of music that was in danger of ceasing to be music at all". The rest is history.

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## A firmer way to deal with debtors

From Mr Paul M. Stevenson

Sir, Professor Nick Wilson, in his article "Should late payers be punished by law?" (Focus on Factoring and Invoice Discounting, November 3) points out that only 17 per cent of small companies in Germany rely upon a bank overdraft, compared with 42 per cent in Britain.

Germany is noted as a country for prompt payment, probably helped by the discounts offered, but British companies seem to suffer from an inability to ask for payment at the correct time. Is this because we are afraid of confrontation or of losing custom? The majority of companies appear to have a collection system that only comes into action when the debt is overdue.

Why are these companies not contacting their customers before the debt is due for settlement, to confirm that the payment is going to be made on or before the due date and at the value expected? If debtors are listed in descending order of balance outstanding, you might only need to contact 20 per cent of customers to cover 80 per cent of the ledger by value.

Surely, we should be more proactive in our approach to outstanding debtors rather than being reactive, as in the past. A proactive system, correctly managed, will release internal funds previously locked up in overdue debts. This in turn will reduce the reliance on funding from third parties.

Yours sincerely,  
PAUL M. STEVENSON,  
Paul Stevenson Consulting,  
10 Torrington Road,  
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire.

From Mr Christopher Tong

Sir, As we approach the 1995 Budget I suspect that the small-business community will once again be disappointed with the Government's failure to tackle the issue of late payment of accounts.

Making late payment unprofitable or illegal would have two effects. Firstly, there would be a large injection of cash into the small-business sector as the offending (normally much larger) organisations adjusted their trade creditors from between 60 and 90 days outstanding, down to 30 days. This would quickly improve the liquidity and therefore the viability of many small businesses.

Secondly, the amount of bank borrowing and invoice factoring would drop by a significant amount in the medium and long term as businesses were able to finance more of their working capital through the credit cycle.

Among the losers would be the larger corporations, who view late payment as a legitimate financing tool; the banks, who would see a reduction in loan and overdraft income; and the factoring companies, who flourish on the late-payment gravy train. The latter companies, of course, are often owned by the banks anyway.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER TONG,  
22 Kinson Road, Upper Shirley,  
Southampton, Hampshire.  
November 6.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

## Death of Rabin

From Dr Mehrdad Khonsari

Sir, It is ironic that the death of Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Prime Minister of Israel, should have provided all fanatics in the region with a common cause for celebration. The fact that fanatical Jews in Israel have found a point of commonality with fundamentalist Muslims in Iran, and radical socialists of the Arab kind in Libya, serves only to highlight the needed resolve to strive even harder for the attainment of peace and other civilised values in the region.

Any alternative leaves nothing but death and destruction. Even a cursory glance at the record of all those who have expressed joy at the death of Rabin shows why they must not be allowed to prevail.

Yours faithfully,  
M. KHONSARI,  
PO Box 326,  
London SW15 3NN.  
November 8.

From Mr A. A. S. Zuckerman

Sir, Amos Os writes in his article about the assassinated Israeli Prime Minister ("Zealot's bullet shatters sacred values of Israel", November 7) that "the fertile ground for fanaticism is hopelessness, despair and disorientation".

If only things were so simple. Jewish fundamentalism has sprung and thrived in an affluent society. The fundamentalist settlers are economically comfortable middle-class people, often with a second home inside the pre-1967 borders.

Not infrequently they are immigrants from enlightened Western countries who went to Israel not because of privation but because there they could give expression to their fanaticism. The source of their attitude is profoundly cultural.

Yours truly,  
ADRIAN ZUCKERMAN,  
University College, Oxford.  
November 7.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

## The merits of mediation in divorce

From the General Secretary of the Association of Chief Officers of Probation

Sir, While the fate of the Divorce Bill hangs in the balance, the frequently forgotten element — as your leader of November 6 points out — remains the welfare of the children involved. Opponents of the Bill are, wittingly or unwittingly, continuing a system which is flawed by the friction it generates between separating parents and the damage that ensues for the children of the failed, or failing, relationship.

Every year the Probation Service, through its family court welfare officers, prepares over 34,000 welfare reports and acts in 19,000 mediation cases between separating partners. This work gives our officers a clear insight into the lasting suffering separation can bring upon the children involved, and the news of a threat to the Lord Chancellor's proposals has been met with horror and anger.

The present system is unsatisfactory as it fuels the acrimony between partners. To obstruct the Bill, burdening the children with the bitterness created between the two partners, only prolongs and deepens this suffering.

Our work has always been to protect the interests of the child but it appears that these interests have been shamefully overlooked by those trying to bring down the Bill. It will be a very sad day for all those children if they succeed and the Bill is excluded from forthcoming legislation.

Yours faithfully,  
MARY HONEYBALL,  
General Secretary,  
Association of Chief Officers of Probation,  
212 Whitechapel Road, E1,  
November 6.

From Dr Alan Cock

Sir, The President of the Law Society (letter, November 7) overlooks the major part played by his own profession in making divorce proceedings more hostile and acrimonious. Many divorced persons will testify that they had begun divorce in a good spirit: the trouble began once they consulted solicitors.

It would be unfair to blame this entirely on solicitors: each acts for one party only, and it is his professional duty to advise the client to claim the best possible settlement. There will always be a grey, disputable area, and that is where most of the rancour originates.

I disagree emphatically with the suggestion of Mrs Avril Links (letter, same date) that mediation should be seen as an optional extra, to be undertaken only after adversarial negotiations. On the contrary, it should come first, before consultations with solicitors have had a chance to sour the atmosphere.

## Booker judgment

From Mr C. M. Chadwick

Sir, It seems from your report today some people were surprised that Pat Barker won the Booker Prize. Anyone who has read her trilogy (*Regeneration* (1991), *The Eye in the Door* (1993) and now *The Ghost Road*) would be astonished if she hadn't.

The trilogy is one of the major literary achievements of our time and puts most other contemporary fiction in the shade. It sets the standard. It is a sign of the "tyranny of ordinariness" which George Walden writes about ("Why Pat Barker won the Booker", November 8) that so much of relatively little worth gets puffed up in the literary pages and nothing stands out.

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLES CHADWICK,  
35a Denning Road, NW3.  
November 8.

From Mr Peter Kemp

Sir, When you judge the Booker Prize, you expect to read a lot of fiction, but it's a surprise to find that some of it is

As for myself, my wife and I separated 14 years ago, but we agreed to postpone divorce indefinitely, so as to preserve her right to a valuable widow's pension under my occupational scheme. Once the Pensions Bill has completed its passage through Parliament, we shall be able, in the modern fashion, to make "respectable divorced persons" of each other.

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN COCK,  
83 Roselands Gardens,  
Southampton, Hampshire.  
November 7.

From the Director of National Family Mediation

Sir, Mediation, writes Mrs Links, "should be an 'optional extra' after independent advice on rights and obligations has been obtained, not a compulsory first stop". Her argument is based on two misapprehensions.

As the Lord Chancellor has made clear in his speech to the Solicitors Family Law Association (report, November 8) it is not proposed that mediation will be compulsory: the Government White Paper states that it should be voluntarily entered and family mediators view compulsory mediation as a contradiction in terms.

Nor is it viewed by us or the White Paper as an "optional extra" to legal advice but an alternative to legal representation, where appropriate: family mediators wish clients to have legal advice at the beginning and end of mediation and specialist legal advice during the process when needed.

Current mediation sessions do not seem to us to be "sullen", as the President of the Law Society suggests in his accompanying letter. If couples choose to come to mediation in good time then they become actively involved in resolving or, at times, preventing their disputes by negotiation.

Yours faithfully,  
THELMA FISHER,  
Director,  
National Family Mediation,  
9 Tavistock Place, WC1,  
November 7.

From Canon Donald Nicholson

Sir, In the belief that the great Dr Johnson had an appropriate comment to make on any topic in any century, I would like to offer Lord Mackay this relevant observation:

I believe marriages would in general be as happy, and often more so, if they were all made by the Lord Chancellor, upon a due consideration of characters and circumstances, without the parties having any choice in the matter (Boswell, *Life of Johnson*, under March 22, 1776).

Yours faithfully,  
DONALD NICHOLSON,  
St Margaret's Convent,  
17 Spital, Aberdeen.  
November 6.

written in newspapers, and about oneself (report, November 9).

The judges did not arrive for the final meeting "convinced" that Salman Rushdie would win. I was not "an implacable opponent of Rushdie from the outset", nor had I previously written "a hostile review" of his novel (I described it, among much other praise, in *The Sunday Times* as "a triumph of imaginative indomitability"). My fellow-judge, Adam Mars-Jones, was certainly not "less decided" about Pat Barker and Rushdie than I was, and I did not, as your reporter bizarrely claims, sway the other judges against *The Moor's Last Sigh* by "a detailed critique of the last 50 pages".

Most of all, the report misrepresents our meeting by ignoring its decisive feature: the keenly argued admiration and enthusiasm of four of the judges for the novel to which we gave the award.

Yours sincerely,  
PETER KEMP,  
(Fiction Editor),  
*The Sunday Times*,  
1 Pennington Street, E1,  
November 9.

the total population of Earth and, taken as a whole, Western Europe accounted for just under 50 per cent of world trade in 1992. British business must, of course, look to the markets of the future; however, it would be suicidal to prejudice our involvement in the markets of today.

Perhaps the most interesting revelation to emerge from Lord Rees-Mogg's flawed analysis was the fact that Britain, during the "core" period of Conservative rule, was only the 10th best performer in the "high cost, high tax, high unemployment, low growth area" which is the EU.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW MITCHELL,  
56 Esmond Road, W4.

## Happy returns, at last

From Mrs Nicky Phillips

Sir, I am overwhelmed by the generous response of your readers to my letter of November 3, lamenting my difficulty in obtaining a card to mark my godson's confirmation (see also letters, November 7 and 8).

Should anyone else experience similar difficulties, I am now flush with cards, catalogues and suggestions.

Yours gratefully,  
NICKY PHILLIPS,  
16 Burns Green,  
Benington, Hertfordshire.  
November 8.

## Views on best of modern preaching

From Mr B. W. Hearn

Sir, I suppose it was only to be expected in these uncertain times that the winning sermon in the "Preacher of the Year" competition should be one that gives greatest respect to a self-confessed unbeliever, mentioning her name eight times and that of Jesus but once (Credo, November 4).

No doubt the atheist among the judges was impressed by that. Nothing to challenge him there.

Yours faithfully,  
B. W. HEARN,  
5 Laurel Close, Hutton,  
Brentwood, Essex.  
November 6.

From Mr Cyril D. Hore

Sir, I was privileged to attend St Pancras church in Euston, north London, for the final of the "Preacher of the Year" competition (report, November 2). It was an exhilarating and uplifting experience and I listened to every word — an unusual experience for me when listening to a sermon.

You are to be congratulated on your bold sponsorship and coverage of this unique event. Thanks, too, to Ruth Gledhill for her promotion and publication of *The Times Book of Best Sermons*.

I look forward to next year already.

Yours faithfully,  
CYRIL D. HORE,  
Ruslings, 65 Locks Ride,  
Ascot, Berkshire.  
November 6.

From Miss M. H. Henderson

Sir, As the "Preacher of the Year" award involves competition, personal publicity and the chance of material gain it is certainly in keeping with today's values.

I am not a churchgoer, but wonder if there may be a few unworried souls who find the contest inappropriate.

Yours sincerely,  
MARY HENDERSON,  
50 Rowans Park,  
Lymington, Hampshire.  
November 5.

## Dome as hoarding

From Mr Joe Stuart-Smith

Sir, With the cathedral authorities deciding to allow the dome of St Paul's Cathedral to be used to advertise chocolate bars (photograph, November 7), one wonders how long it will be before the clergy will wear "ecclesiastical stripes" to advertise local events and products in order to raise money for church funds?

Yours faithfully,  
JOE STUART-SMITH,  
Dunn Street Farm,  
Westwell, Ashford, Kent.  
November 7.

From Mrs J. F. N. Hodgkinson

Sir, And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves.

And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer: but ye have made it a den of thieves. (Matthew xxi, 12 and 13.)

The Dean and Chapter of St Paul's should bow their heads in shame.

Yours faithfully,  
DOROTHY M. HODGKINSON,  
59 Whitfield Avenue,  
Newcastle-under-Lyme,  
Staffordshire.  
November 12.

## Music on radio

From Mrs Elizabeth Marshall

Sir, As a regular listener to Radio 3, I was sad at the decision to move *Composer of the Week* from the 9am slot but being — I like to think — open-minded and not normally given to complaining, I decided to wait and see what the replacement was like. The sad fact is that the morning drive to work is no longer the pleasure it was.

The Controller of Radio 3 may see Classic FM as a threat, and it soon will be if he carries on with his present policy; I regard them as complementary, so should not their styles be different?

But, given the choice of jolly Irish (Classic FM) or pretentious American (Radio 3) at 9 in the morning, I for one am opting for the Irishman.

Yours faithfully,  
ELIZABETH MARSHALL,  
Lansell Hill,  
Rolvenden, nr Cranbrook, Kent.

## Double indemnity?

From the Mayor of Bromley

Sir, So the word "twinned" is not allowed in a Scrabble competition (report, November 6). We have been using it since 1987, when our borough was twinned with Neuwed in Germany, and it was certainly a part of the language before that.

Perhaps the editor of *Chambers Dictionary* (which gives "twinned" and "twining") could think of a better term for "people who twin".

Yours literally,  
CHARLES G. PRIEST,  
(President, Bromley Town Twinning Association),  
Civic Centre,  
Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent.







# OBITUARIES

## JOHN CAHILL

John C. Cahill, chairman of TWA, former chief executive of BTR and former chairman of British Aerospace, died from a brain tumour on November 4 aged 65. He was born on January 8, 1930.

JOHN CAHILL was an outstanding hands-on industrial manager, one of a team of four who built the BTR group from an old rubber company with dim prospects into an international manufacturing conglomerate that became one of Britain's top ten companies.

A tall, rangy figure with a cheerful smile and a manner straightforward to a fault, Cahill made his happiest contributions leading factories to turn out quality products efficiently and at low cost and in building up BTR's vast North American operations from scratch. In such professional business roles he was a master. He was less at ease, but still delivered financial success, when he came into the public eye first as chief executive of BTR from 1987 to 1991 and then as the tough outsider drafted in to sort out British Aerospace, after over-ambitious expansion had brought it to its knees.

Cahill was born in Middlesex into a middle-class business family in comfortable but variable circumstances. He nonetheless developed a steely, work-driven and sometimes austere character as a businessman. He attributed this to his wretched and lonely days at a boarding school to which he was dispatched when he was nine.

This engendered such a passion for punctuality that Cahill could turn up half an hour early for meetings, bringing business papers to read the while. He was famously and demandingly honest and convinced that life was hard. Direct and shy of small talk, though voluble in congenial company, he much preferred a sandwich at his desk to the business lunch. His business life, where he preferred a male atmosphere, was kept quite separate and in contrast to his treasured family life with Vanna, his Italian wife of nearly 40 years, and their three daughters.

After leaving St Paul's School, Hammersmith, at 17 and doing his National Service, Cahill drifted into a City stockbroker's office, but found himself redundant at 24 and won a job as a conveyor belt salesman at the future BTR in 1955, starting a 35-year career with the company. Within a few years, the impressive 4th youngest was dispatched to set up a subsidiary company in Canada.

Cahill emerged in the late 1960s as one of four complementary young men, along with Norman Ireland, now chairman of BTR, and the late Don



Tapley, who revolutionised the company under Sir Owen Green, the group's leader and chief inspirer. It then had sales of £4 million and made a loss. By the time Cahill left, sales were £6.7 billion and profits more than £900 million.

Cahill was ideally suited to the parsimonious no-frills style that Green developed at the group's modest Pimlico headquarters. He was the ever-travelling, hard-working exponent on the ground of the distinctive management style the four developed. This involved agreeing tough but realistic financial targets in conjunction with managers of separate subsidiary companies. Local managers were then left to get on with the job, though help was available if needed and performance was monitored centrally via brief monthly reports of key management statistics. Returns on sales came before sales growth, community involvement or lavish overheads.

This system, which fostered a strong team spirit, is now widely used throughout British business, not always so appropriately or with such

dedication. It enabled BTR to build up a disparate empire through ever larger acquisitions, such as Thomas Tilling and Dunlop, spanning unconnected industries on four continents, linked only by being mainly in manufacturing or process sectors and by the distinctive BTR management pack.

In 1978, when Cahill had been deputy managing director to Green for three years, he was sent on a solo mission to develop from one acquisition a comparable business in the United States. After a cautious start, he built up a new empire over a period of nine years, during which he warmed to the hard, direct American approach to business and grew to prefer living there. By last year, BTR's operations in the Americas made a gratifying £527 million operating profit, more than a third of the group total.

Returning to become chief executive at the beginning of 1987, when Green moved up to become non-executive chairman, Cahill found himself in the middle of a takeover bid not of his making for Pilkington, the glass group that had turned its research on float

glass into a world-beater. The bid battle proved a setback for BTR and for Cahill's tenure at the top. Pilkington escaped, thanks to profits recovering faster than BTR expected, and a campaign that damagingly painted BTR as unimaginative and too dependent on accounting and takeovers for growth. Cahill proved the latter wrong — profits nearly doubled in his four years at the top. But he never managed a major acquisition, partly because BTR was anxious not to pay too dearly. His attempt to buy Norton, an American abrasives multinational, failed after his tactics proved too abrasive. He left a message announcing the bid on the Norton boss's home answering machine at 6am and Norton fled into the arms of a more sophisticated French group.

After Cahill left BTR at its official retirement age of 60, strictly enforced, he planned to live at his homes in America. He was soon recalled to fill a vacuum at British Aerospace, whose chairman and finance director had left after it expanded rapidly in several directions at once, became over-stretched, lost City confidence and plunged into loss.

Cahill took over as executive chairman from a caretaker director who had already pledged to the City that BAE would retrench back to aircraft and defence equipment rather than seek more funds. Admiring BTR managers warned their counterparts at BAE that they were in for a culture shock and Cahill did not disappoint them. He invested his own cash in the business and set about hacking out costs and indulgent management habits with a rethrust.

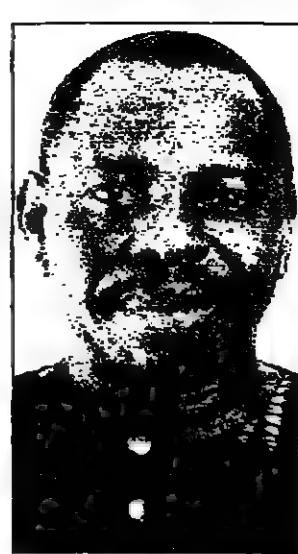
In his first time with this highly political business, Cahill sold Rover to BMW amid much public indignation, personally efforts to sell BAE's regional passenger jet business failed, perhaps because Cahill's brisk, bluff approach was unsuited to the intricacies of business deals in the Far East.

Cahill left suddenly after two years of a five-year contract. This was as much because he wanted to spend time with his family, who were still living in America, as because of the political conflicts he encountered within the board of BAE. Since his departure, BAE's profits have recovered strongly, thanks largely to the improved manufacturing methods and monitoring he set in train.

Early this year Cahill had taken on another business challenge with his usual enthusiasm, becoming chairman of the long-troubled airline group TWA. He is survived by his wife and three daughters.

## KEN SARO-WIWA

Ken Saro-Wiwa, novelist and playwright, was executed yesterday, aged 54. He was born on October 10, 1941.



AN IMPROBABLE warrior for a nation whose blood-thirsty history has bred legions of soldiers, Ken Saro-Wiwa rose to fame first as the author of humorous works. Yet political interests lay always just under his skin. The sheer farcical muddle of a country led by a succession of capricious dictators lent itself to his satirist's pen. His television series *Bar and Co* portrayed the life of a raffish conman whose hapless business schemes echoed only too evidently the vices of his nation — "the greed for money at every level," as Saro-Wiwa was to put it.

His most highly regarded work *Socoboy: A Novel in Rotten English*, though penned in a humorous counterpoint of pidgin and idiomatic English painted a wryly ironic portrait of the endemic corruption of the military. The embattled dictatorship of Babangida recognised its warped features in the satiric mirror which Saro-Wiwa held up and began to feel a threat.

This threat became more direct when Saro-Wiwa used his pen no longer to amuse but to bring the plight of Nigeria's 300,000 Ogoni people to the world's attention. His campaign opened up the already aching scars of tribalistic and governmental tensions as he attempted to prevent the genocide of his people. The area had been despoiled by the explorations of the multi-national Shell which in the late 1950s began drilling for oil.

For a Government whose national revenue is almost entirely derived from oil, his campaign represented a direct threat. When in October 1990 the Ogoni people attacked Shell production staff at Umuachem, the company called in the feared "mobile police" who quenched the uprising with armoured cars and sophisticated weaponry.

Babangida's retaliation was far crueler than that of the satirist's pen.

Kenule Beeson Saro-Wiwa was born at Bori, in Rivers State a lush, flood-prone region on the Southern Coast of Nigeria irrigated by the interlocking tributaries of the River Niger. As a child he recalled playing football on stinking oil-encrusted fields in a despoiled land where crops shrivelled in the polluted soil and villagers were kept awake at night by the hissing of lurid refinery flares.

His father, though an Anglican, interpreted Christianity according to the precepts of local culture and he had three wives. Saro-Wiwa grew up in an environment in which family and tribal links were strongly forged.

He was educated first at Government College, Umuahia, and later at the University of Ibadan from where he went on to become from 1962 to 1966 a secondary school teacher at his former school. He then became a graduate assistant at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka and later an assistant lecturer at the University of Lagos.

However his political interests emerged at an early age. He was appointed administrator for Bonny, Rivers State

during the Biafran Civil War. He was also affiliated variously with the Ministry of Works, Land and Transport, 1968-69, Ministry of Education, 1969-71, and Ministry of Information and Home Affairs 1971-73. His friends joked about the tycoonish airs he adopted, laughing at his pipe and his preference for fine whiskies.

However, Saro-Wiwa proved himself able to abandon the superficial accoutrements of power when he took up the spokespersonship of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People. He used his fame as a writer and his connections with other reputed authors such as his fellow Nigerian the Nobel Prize-winning Wole Soyinka and the English novelist William Boyd to gain attention for ideas which gained gathering power as they trickled down from an intellectual elite to the masses.

In 1993, after Babangida annulled the results of a presidential election, reneging on his promise of a return to civilian rule, chaos ensued and Saro-Wiwa was imprisoned for a month. But his prison writings were smuggled back to Britain by *The Times* in 1993 and an international readership found itself appalled by his horrific evocations of prison life: "the septic tank, the stinking bathroom, the cell of the damned of the earth, who shriek and chant away turns a deaf ear." Saro-Wiwa had moved far away from his early days when he had penned a satirically amusing column for a Lagos newspaper on prison life. Amnesty campaigned for, and won, his release.

Despite international outcry unprovoked attacks on Ogoni villages escalated and in May this year four Ogoni men were lynched on suspicion of collaborating with military authorities. Tens more were subsequently killed and hundreds arrested. Saro-Wiwa was imprisoned and accused of inciting violence, charges he always denied.

He leaves his wife Hauwa and children.

## PETER CASSON

Peter Casson, hypnotist, died on October 24 aged 73. He was born on December 13, 1921.

HYPNOTISM enjoyed a new vogue in the immediate post-war years as a result of the literally mesmerising stage shows of Peter Casson. Casson's popularity was such that an intrigued BBC considered televising one of his shows, and in 1946 invited him to Alexandra Palace to take part in a controlled experiment with volunteers. Casson not only managed to put the volunteers to sleep with extraordinary ease, but also accidentally hypnotised one person who was watching from a nearby room on closed-circuit television.

The BBC was horrified at the possible repercussions should it go ahead with the broadcast as planned, and

hastily dissociated itself from Casson: "Because of the success of this experiment and the consequent danger of hypnotising viewers who might not have anyone at hand to wake them, it has been decided that a hypnotic television broadcast would not be advisable."

Casson did not match up to the Svengali image of the hypnotist in real life. Admittedly, he had a certain physical presence on stage, being strapping and dark. But in the flesh, he came across as a plain-spoken Yorkshireman, with a boyish enthusiasm for his subject. He spent much of his time, when he was not performing, trying to verify the benefits of hypnosis on certain medical and psychological conditions.

Peter Reginald Casson was born in Bridlington, Yorkshire, the son of a carpenter.



He was introduced to hypnosis at St George's School, and studied the subject afterwards at night classes at Hull University. During the war Casson spent four years with the Royal Marines, much of it in

the Middle East. He had a good deal of time on his hands, and many willing volunteers on whom to practise. Sometimes he would try light-hearted experiments such as making his subjects rise at 5am and bang loudly on the sergeant-major's door. On other occasions, he attempted fairly complicated experiments, as when he hypnotised a Greek with the help of two interpreters, one translating from English to French, the other from French to English.

After the war he worked up a stage show and toured army bases with *Ensa*. Back in Britain in the days when variety still thrived, he made a name for himself on the Moss Empires circuit. He followed this with tours to America, the Seychelles and Iceland.

Casson advocated a scrupulous approach to the handling of volunteers during a demon-

stration of hypnosis. For instance, he might ask a stage full of entranced subjects to accompany a record with imaginary musical instruments, or to enact an elaborate cricket match with imaginary ball, bat and stumps. But with the decline of variety in the late 1950s and the rising popularity of television, many of his fellow stage hypnotists decided to adopt a more sensationalist stance in order to draw the crowds, and asked their volunteers to strip or to perform other degrading acts. Casson was horrified by the development, and in 1979 formed the Federation of Ethical Stage Hypnotists with 25 colleagues, becoming its first chairman.

He had spent some of the intervening years developing useful medical applications for hypnosis. He worked in hospitals on neurological disorders, and examined hypnosis as a natural anaesthetic for women in childbirth. He spent about one week in three seeing patients at his clinic in Dorset Square, and he treated shell-shocked patients after the war. He also wrote newspaper articles on mild psychological problems such as blushing or stuttering.

Casson owned two nightclubs, the Baba in Barnsley and the Kiki in Doncaster, and was chairman of the Cabaret Clubs Federation. He was also an amateur archaeologist, specialising in the Roman period in Britain.

His marriage to Magda Bain, at one time his assistant on stage, ended in divorce. They had one daughter, who survives him.

Mary Henry, CBE, registrar of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, 1947-73, died on October 31 aged 83. She was born on April 10, 1912.

FOR 30 years a senior officer of the General Nursing Council (GNC) for England and Wales, Mary Henry was a nurse who strove to see that high standards of nursing were kept through registration bodies, independent of governments, in the emerging countries of the British Commonwealth. She looked to the welfare of nurses who were subject to the disciplinary processes of her profession, and for many years she personally signed every nurse's registration certificate. Yet she also visited America in the 1960s to find how computers could introduce modern record-keeping at the GNC.

Born into a medical family, Mary Gwendolen Nicol Henry trained as a nurse at University College Hospital, London, from 1931 to 1940. She felt she had joined the right profession but considered that bedside nursing was not for her. She, therefore, joined the staff of the GNC as second assistant registrar in 1943, was appointed first assistant registrar in 1944, and became registrar in 1947. She only retired in 1973, when the council gave a reception for her in the Great Hall of St Bartholomew's Hospital.

She had been at the helm during an era which had seen six Nurses Acts, and when the numbers of nurses on the register and roll had increased from 120,000 to 600,000. And although not an educationist, she established an education department at the council.

## MARY HENRY

At the GNC she was the Sir Humphrey-type senior civil servant from Yes, Minister — self-effacing but with a hand firmly on the levers of power, wise but with a quiet humour, punctilious in attention to legal details and demanding of high standards. Because the rules said that nurses must be notified "forthwith" of the result of disciplinary decisions, even if the disciplinary committee sat until 6pm she would send the letters out that night. In those days she signed every letter herself.



She lived not only for but on the job — in a flat at the back of the GNC offices in Portland Place, with her cat. It was the age when only staff of the rank of higher clerical officer or above were allowed to use the main staircase of the GNC. But any member of staff who had a personal problem knew they could always go to her.

Mary Henry's sympathetic nature made her acutely aware of the situation of errant nurses caught up in the council's disciplinary procedure. This was why she was very positive about the setting

up of the Nurses Welfare Service in 1972, on the initiative of Lady (Lisa) Sainsbury, once she had reconciled for herself the conflict of roles of the council in protecting the public and helping nurses who had failed to live up to professional standards. She was delighted when her new deputy, Reg Pine, whom she had sent off to read himself into the job, pointed out that there was provision in the Act for the council to do the latter.

She felt strongly that a profession's regulatory body should be independent of government, and her battles on this extended beyond those with the Government in Britain. When Britain's former colonies became independent after the war, Mary Henry worked hard to see that their nurses would be able to nurse to the same high standards as in Britain, with the protection of their own nursing councils. She travelled extensively in Africa on this mission, which, as it was on behalf of a largely female profession, was complicated by local attitudes to women.

Mary Henry attended congresses of the International Council of Nurses, and in retirement she undertook a number of short-term World Health Organisation consultancies. She was also chairman of the 1930 Fund for District Nurses. She was appointed CBE in 1970.

She was a very private person. Few knew that she loved poetry. She never married but a visit to a children's home resulted in her taking on a single parent role while working at her demanding job. Bringing up a boy who had been in care brought her later the joy of grandchildren. He survives her.

## Armed Forces honours and awards

Details of awards for gallant and distinguished service in the former Republic of Yugoslavia, Northern Ireland and miscellaneous non-operational awards are published today.

### Northern Ireland

CBE  
Capt R E Wedge, RAF.

OBE  
Lt Col J R Cook, Devonshire and Dorset Regt; Lt Col D N J Flynn, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Lt Col G F Hisslop, Royal Irish Regt; Rev M K Masterson, Royal Army Chaplains' Dept; Lt Col A R Pillar, RM; Cdr R Thoburn, RN; Rev D E Wilkes, Royal Army Chaplains' Dept.

MBE  
Major G S Ackers, Int Corps; Capt S T Chicken, RM; WO Class 2 P Cook, RM; Major J A Esler, Royal Irish Regt; Major P J L Funnell, Scots Cde; Major M Gray, RAN; Capt T A S Hill, KOSB; WO Class 2 M J Keating, Royal Green Jds; Major G A Knaught, Int Corps; Capt S Livingstone, RM; Major A H C Macmillan-Scott, KOSB; Maj W R Munday, Princess of Wales's Royal Regt; Colour Sgt C D Norman, Para Regt; Major P D Phillips, REME; Major B W O Russell, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Major A J S Storr, Devonshire and Dorset Regt; Major M W E Wade, King's Royal Hussars; Major M C Wickham, Royal Logistic Cps; Lt J C Williams, Int Corps.

QGM  
Capt C J Henson, Royal Logistic Cps; Capt C R Mills, Para Regt; Sgt A E Parsonage, Gt Howards; Colour Sgt L Smith, Queen's Lancashire Regt; WO Class 2 R W Wells, REME.

MID  
Sgt M G Smith, King's Royal Hussars.

QCB  
Capt H R S Clarke, Scots Gds; Pte D A Cornell, King's Own Border Regt; Capt A J W Davidson, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Sgt P Dregthorn, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Sgt M C Hawkes, Royal Regt of Artillery; Cpl M Keenan, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Sgt M A Langley, RE; Sgt D McMillan, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Capt C J Overton, Royal Logistic Cps; Colour Sgt A W Rea, Royal Irish Regt; Lt Col R Redhead, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Pte A J Reynolds, Royal Logistic Cps; Sgt S J Sanderson, RM; Cpl D A J Thom, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; WO Class 2 P Thomson, Scots Gds; WO Class 2 R A Wharton, Royal Logistic Cps.

QCVS  
Capt M J Abbott, Princess of Wales's Royal Regt; Cpl A M Adams, RM; Major C E I Beattie, Royal Gt Jts; Major S A Bird, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Major C S Booth, Lt Infy; Lt Col R C Burt, Lt Infy; Lt Col J M Burnip, RN; Maj G J Cary, Royal Cps of Signals; Capt E J R Chamberlain, Lt Infy; Maj J H De Haldevang, Scots Gds; Sgt H L Elliott, Adj Gen's Cps (PRO); Col T M Fitzalan-Howard, Jane Somers Cde; Capt A J Gale, Royal Logistic Cps; Maj T J Gammours, Royal Regt of Fusiliers; WO Class 1 A F Gibb, Royal Logistic Cps; Flight Lt G R Gibbons, RAF; Lt Col D C N Gifford, Adj Gen's Cps (PRO); Capt A H F Gordon, Army Air Cps; Cpl T E J Graham, Royal Irish Regt; Maj N Grant Thorold, King's Royal Hussars; Maj M T Griffiths, King's Own Royal Border Regt; Maj M J Hanlon, Royal Irish Regt; Capt D H Jackson, Royal Irish Regt; Lt Col P G Jackson, Scots Gds; Capt H R D J Joynson, King's Royal Hussars; Lt Col A J Livingstone, RM; Colour Sgt N C Macgregor, KOSB; Lt Col G M McCrimble, Royal Cps of Signals; Major M J McFriedrick, Royal Irish Regt; Colour Sgt A

McKenzie, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Pte K A McKillop, Para Regt; Lt Col A K M Miller, Argyll and Sutherland Hldrs; Capt K A Miller, Int Cps; Major A F Morrow, Royal Irish Regt; Major D M Nield, Royal Welch Fusiliers; Cpl S D Orchard, Para Regt; Capt M B O'Reilly, Royal Irish Regt; Colour Sgt R J Palmer, Royal Irish Regt; Sgt R Parkhill, Royal Irish Regt; Major D Parsonage, Royal Irish Regt; Major J P A Seward, Int Cps; Cpl J P Sheppard, Adj Gen's Cps (PRO); Lt Col A R D Shirrell, King's Royal Hussars; Major J W Smith, Para Regt; Major J R M Stanton, KOSB; Pte I Thompson, Royal Irish Regt; Capt M R Tierney, KOSB; Col M D Webb, late Army Air Cps; Lt Col T F L Weeks, Lt Infy; Sgt R J White, Int Cps; Major M W Wischusen, Royal Regt of Fusiliers; Sgt A R Worrall, Adj Gen's Cps (PRO).

### Former Republic of Yugoslavia

OBE  
Lt Col P E O'R-B Davidson-Houston, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Lt Col J S M Edwards, Royal Highland Fus.

MBE  
Capt A J Colfart, RE; Lt Col PS Dwyne-Diames, RM; Maj F D F Drury, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; WO Class 2 P P Lewis, Life Gds; Sgt J M Mackie, REME; Major R J C Maxwell, Royal Logistic Cps; WO Class 2 C Summer, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Capt R M Wilson, RE.

AFC  
Lt Col J C Snowball, RN.

MID  
Cpl S Bell, Royal Highland Fus.

allies; Lt Col C R Edwards, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Cpl D D Lewis, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Cpl M J Linker, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Cpl W J McGavin, REME; Flight Lt J P White, RAF.

QCB  
Maj S G Donaldson, Royal Regt of Artillery; Lt Col J Hopkins, Royal Logistic Cps.

QCVS  
Capt J D Bagshaw, Coldstream Gds; Major D A J Brown, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Capt J C Collier, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; CPO Air Engineering Artificer (I) J Coulson, RN; Capt J C Dixon, Adj Gen's Cps (SFS); Lt Col J E Flux, REME; Brigadier R D S Gordon, late 17th/21st Lancers; Colour Sgt A Haason, Royal Gloucs, Berks and Wilts Regt; Cpl D C Jones, RE; Lt Col M H Lewington, Royal Logistic Cps; Lt Col I R Liles, Royal Regt of Fusiliers; WO Class 2 D A McGinnis, RE; Staff Sgt V A Pridden, Royal Logistic Cps; Cpl P A Rendell, RE; Capt R G Robertson, Royal Highland Fus; Capt N J P Sharples, REME; CPO Air Engineering Artificer (I) W P Young, RN.

### Rwanda

QCB  
Lt Col M Cuthbert-Brown, Adj Gen's Cps (PRO).

### Incidental non-operational gallantry awards

QGM  
Capt M Lobb, RE.

AFC  
Flt Lt A J Stacey, RAF.

QCB  
Flt Sgt S D Hart, RAF; Master Aircrew W Reid, RAF.

## P. AND O. THRIET SCHEME

### OFFER TO EMPLOYEES.

We are able to announce that the P. and O. Company has now instituted a "profit-sharing scheme" for its employees, in which the employees of its associate company, the British India Steam Navigation Company, will also be eligible to participate. It is understood that the matter has for some time past engaged the attention of Lord Inchcape.

At their meeting yesterday the board unanimously approved of the issue of a circular in the following terms:—  
"With a view to giving them an interest in the undertakings, the Board of the P. and O. Company is prepared to receive deposits from all employees of the P. and O. and British India Companies, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum, together with an additional 2 per cent. when the dividend paid by the P. and O. Company on its Delivered stock is 5 per cent. per annum, or over; or 2½ per cent. when the dividend is 10 per cent. or over."

The deposits should be made in sums of £10 or multiples thereof, interest and additional 2 per cent. or 2½ per cent. will run from the date of receipt of the deposits.

The deposits will not be negotiable, but will be repayable by the company on any January

## ON THIS DAY

November 11, 1925

This profit-sharing scheme clearly had the backing of Lord Inchcape. A highly successful shipowner and man of affairs, he believed that "every citizen should have the opportunity for self-help and self-development."

1 on six months' notice in writing being either given by the company or received from depositors. Warrants for the interest and additional 2 per cent. or 2½ per cent., as the case may be, will be sent to depositors yearly on December 31. The first payment of interest and the "additional" if any, will be made December 31, 1926, and annually thereafter. The first "additional" will be dependent on the dividend for the company's year ending September 30, 1926, and so on yearly thereafter.

The board reserve to themselves full liberty to terminate the receipt of deposits at any time and to limit the amount deposited by any individual depositor.

It thus becomes possible for an employee in

any department, aloft or ashore, to deposit with the company a minimum of £10 with interest at 5 per cent. per annum, and as the dividend on the company's Delivered stock has for very many years past been maintained at or above 10 per cent., the depositors would appear to have a reasonable prospect of receiving a return of 7½ per cent. on the total amount of their deposits—small or large. It is understood that the scheme is considered by its sponsors to be "convenient for all parties and preferable to the creation of a special denomination of employees' shares."

The plan, it will be seen, will encourage thrift and give the depositors a direct interest in the profits of the company. Not only is the basic rate of 5 per cent. a satisfactory one, but any additional interest will be entirely dependent on the prosperity of the company as indicated by the rate of dividend declared on the Delivered stock. It will be interesting to learn a year hence to what extent the staff, aloft or ashore, have availed themselves of the offer. The hope is known to be expressed that "with its peculiar incentive to personal saving and the interest which it should induce in the success of the company's operations, it should prove as successful as any plan yet evolved with a similar object."



## NEWS

## Nigeria executions condemned

Nigeria's place in the Commonwealth was in jeopardy last night after the execution of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other regional activists. Saro-Wiwa had been nominated for the 1996 Nobel Prize for Literature, and the move drew universal condemnation from governments, human rights campaigners and literary figures. Pages 1, 11, 12, 21, 23

## Britain remembers the Armistice

Britain may all but come to a halt at 11am this morning as the nation observes the two minutes' silence on Armistice Day. Stores, supermarkets, corner shopkeepers and publicans have pledged their support for a Royal British Legion campaign to commemorate the end of The Great War. Pages 1, 10, 20

## Irish bomb seized

Irish police seized a van containing a 1,000lb bomb which republican dissidents were planning to explode in Ulster to destabilise the peace process. Page 2

## Briton to hang

John Scripps, 35, a Briton, was sentenced to hang by a Singapore judge for killing a South African tourist. Page 3

## Greenpeace veto

BBC journalists may be banned from travelling on Greenpeace ships to cover the group's direct action campaigns. Page 4

## Unlawful killing

Five police officers face prosecution after an inquest found that a man injured during arrest was unlawfully killed. Page 5

## Lottery fever

Camelot, the National Lottery organiser, is about to celebrate its first anniversary with weekly sales of tickets at £65 million. Page 7

## Frog turns into prince of spinners

England's cricketers were embarrassed by Paul Adams, a diminutive 18-year-old practising the ancient and neglected art of left-arm wrist-spin with an action that has been described as resembling a frog in a blender. Pages 1, 20, 48

## Class warfare

The main political parties redrew battle lines on the key educational issue of class sizes. Page 9

## Major talks tough

John Major disowned a Commonwealth statement on French nuclear tests as he unveiled a tough new approach to international negotiations. Page 12

## Israel swings left

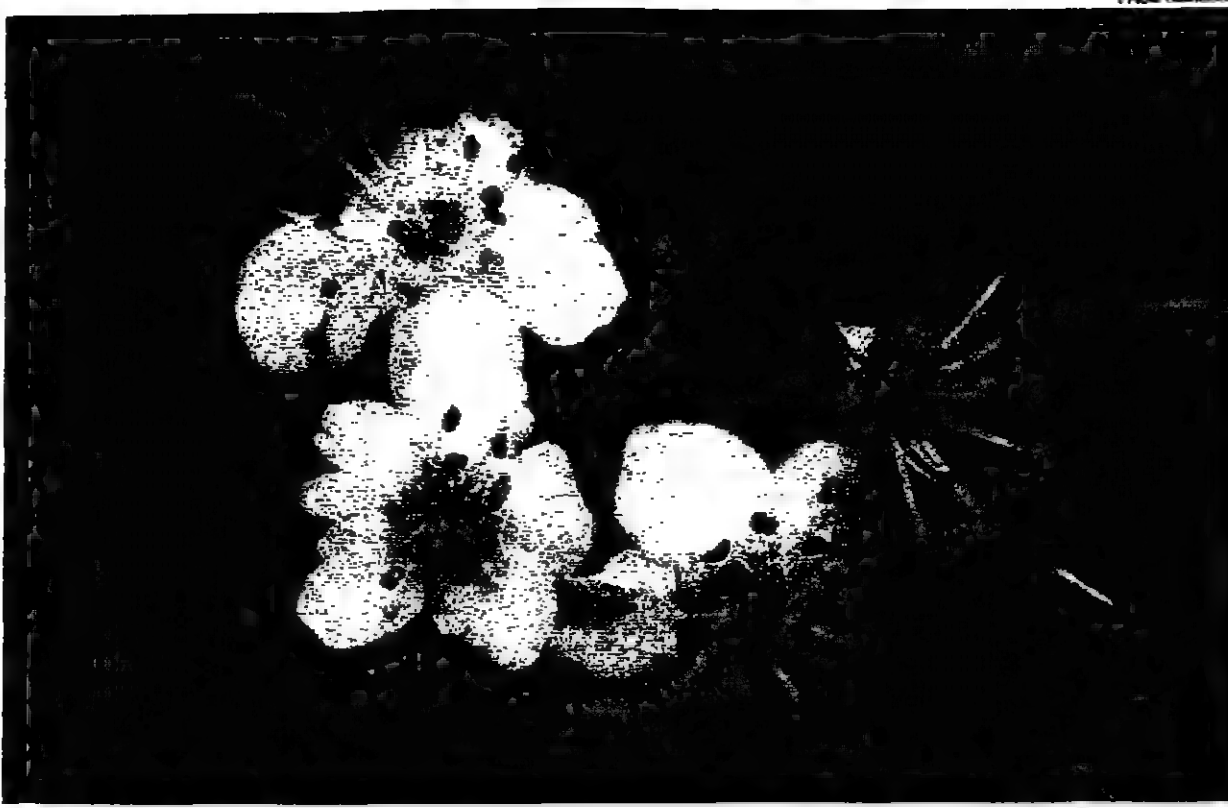
An opinion poll in Israel shows a huge swing away from the right wing to the acting Labour Prime Minister, Shimon Peres. Page 14

## Lubbers withdraws

The search for a Nato chief turned into a transatlantic clash when Rüdiger Lubbers stood down after being rejected by the United States. Pages 15, 21

## The Elair of Naples

The Mayor of Naples, Antonio Bassolino, is emerging as the Tony Blair of Italy. Page 16



Spring has come early to a pear tree in the garden of Miranda McKay-James, near Dorchester

## Opinion

**Abacha's crime:** Nigeria's is a national drama of which Mr Saro-Wiwa, from prison, lamented: "I feel sad that I cannot contribute to the end." Britain must help to write the next chapter. Page 21

## The Papers

Wall Street figures have assured the House Republicans that the consequences of a national debt default would be slight, but much of the debt is not held in Wall Street but in places abroad where the understanding of American political folkways is meagre. — The Washington Post

## Columns

**Simon Jenkins:** I used to attend the Lord Mayor's Show as a child. Whom was I cheering? I knew the Queen ruled the world, but the Lord Mayor was merely a man who sat in a coach. Page 20

## Business

**British Gas:** Customers may have to share some of the £1 billion losses British Gas could suffer from unprofitable contracts with North Sea producers. Page 25

## Sport

**Motor racing:** Mika Hakkinen's serious injuries in a crash in practice for the Australian Grand Prix have provoked renewed concerns about safety in Formula One racing. Page 48

## Columns

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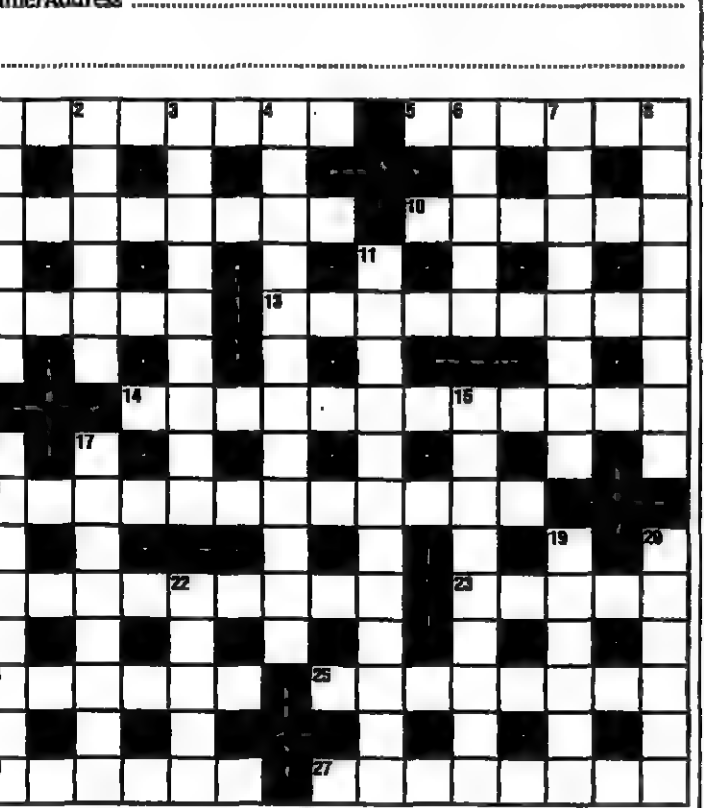
## Sport

**Motor racing:** Mika Hakkinen's serious injuries in a crash in practice for the Australian Grand Prix have provoked renewed concerns about safety in Formula One racing. Page 48

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,010

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 466, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



- ACROSS**
- 1 Move from French border into river (3).
  - 5 Relish lions being in the lead (6).
  - 9 According to René, lacking capital? Well, sort of (8).
  - 10 Chap brings back pictures, inspiration for meditation (6).
  - 12 One's in the right to have a lazy morning (3,2).
  - 13 Testing hearing in the open (6,3).
  - 14 Independent finally removed gloves like this? (3,4,5).
  - 18 Where one may exercise, never meeting obstructions (8,4).
  - 21 One sharing the risk makes money more safe (2,7).
  - 23 Nothing pleasant gets deferred (2,3).
  - 24 One raises game to become a winner (6).
  - 25 Almost returned sick to America — with this? (8).
  - 26 Such a poet won't go blank (6).
  - 27 A desperate call to import top protective fabric (8).
- DOWN**
- 1 Died young, with much affection (6).
  - 2 Rather dull affair (6).
  - 3 Bitter here has no head — not quite complete (9).
  - 4 Intimate how one may follow suit? (5,2,5).
  - 6 A cockpit joined with utmost vigour (5).
  - 7 In court, crucial moment decided part of argument (3,5).
  - 8 Approve picking up small weight for exercise (8).
  - 11 Northerners are upset here by parson (12).
  - 15 Spoil with discordant noise? Quite the reverse (9).
  - 16 When depressed, one gives no impression of character (5,3).
  - 17 Service book is dull (8).
  - 19 Bear friend in litter (6).
  - 20 Some clever suspects central to legal case (6).
  - 22 Weeds damaged vegetable crop (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,004

**UPSET IN HARMONY**  
S P I R I T U A L  
A N T I L L A  
M U L T I C U L T U R A L  
A S I A N  
J U S T I C E  
O R G A N I Z A T I O N  
R E A R P R O G R A M  
N E K R A T I  
B E R G A M O N  
A R R A G O A  
T H I N G A D M I S S I O N  
C A L I C O E R T  
H E A D D R E S S T H E M E

**THESE LONDONERS**  
R E E N L I S T B O B B I N  
D I R O M I N  
A L G E R I A N B I R E M  
E N T E N M E R  
S C O U R I N G A U  
I S L E A H O S N I P  
N I C L E A N O U N  
H A G G L E R O U L E T T E  
E U V D R A A  
B L I M E Y O R N A M E N T  
A S R A E G  
G O T O T O W N L A R D E R

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: D L Thomas, Cardigan, Dyfed; J George, London; P G Burnett, Hughenden Valley, Bucks; M de Burca, Dublin; J S Willis, Cheltenham, Glos.

## TIMES WEATHER

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 800 1000. For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 1000. For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 1000.

## AAROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 1000. For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 1000.

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

Today  
Sun rise: 7:11 am  
Sun set: 4:12 pm  
Moon rise: 10:37 am  
Moon set: 7:30 pm

## TODAY

Today  
Sun rise: 7:11 am  
Sun set: 4:12 pm  
Moon rise: 10:37 am  
Moon set: 7:30 pm

## HIGH TIDES

Today  
Sun rise: 7:11 am  
Sun set: 4:12 pm  
Moon rise: 10:37 am  
Moon set: 7:30 pm

## HIGHEST &amp; LOWEST

Today  
Sun rise: 7:11 am  
Sun set: 4:12 pm  
Moon rise: 10:37 am  
Moon set: 7:30 pm

## FORECAST

General: much of England and Wales will have a wet start. The rain should soon clear away from the south-east as drier and brighter weather arrives, then edges across the rest of the country.

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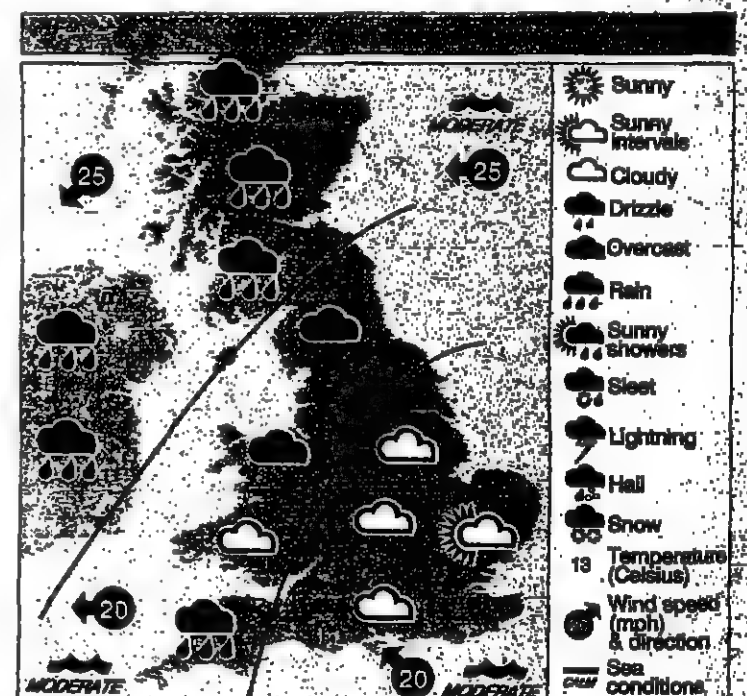
## SATURDAY MAGAZINE

Yesterday and today: From the Beatles to Britpop and back. Pages 8-49  
Winter wines: Jane MacQuitty picks her favourite bottles for under a fiver. Page 57  
Food: Jonathan Meades eats fish and chips. Page 67

**WEEKEND**  
Pamson and Powell: Michael Cookerell on Enoch Powell, odd man out. Pages 1, 3  
Travel: Where to singling with dolphins and whales. Thai cooking. Pages 20, 23  
Books: Penguin's portable opera guide; a new Franchet and a Gory Park for the 1990s. Page 14

**10 15**  
The weekly magazine for young Times readers  
Future world: how to survive the Children's Environment Conference. Page 6  
Win a trip to see Keanu Reeves in A Walk in the Clouds. Page 3  
Recommended: best music, books and videos. Page 10

**VISION**  
The 7-day TV and radio guide  
Cover story: the writer and star of Blackadder, Ben Elton, and Rowan Atkinson, team up again in The Thin Blue Line. Monday, BBC1, 8.30pm  
Film of the Week: Four Weddings and a Funeral finally comes to the small screen. Wednesday, Channel 4, 9pm



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EGGKS



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Page 14

PLUS: The alternative Queen Mother, page 15

FAVOR



Where to sing with dolphins and watch whales

Page 20

PLUS: The art of Thai cooking, page 23

OPINION



How to get your free high quality rock CDs

Page 16

PLUS: Times desk and pocket diaries, page 14

COMPISERS



Buying your own field to beat the developers

Page 4

PLUS: Paul Heiney's Farmer's Diary, page 4

# WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 1995

## ENOCH POWELL: THE MAKER OF A ROMANTIC

By Michael Cockerell



Few people are neutral about Enoch Powell. In his prime some loved him, some hated him and some thought him mad. Nor were these groups mutually exclusive. Powell was the most controversial of all postwar Tory politicians, apart from Margaret Thatcher. "Enoch was the best Parliamentarian I ever knew," Baroness Thatcher says. "Everything in Enoch's speeches had to be worked out from first principles. Whenever he rose to speak, people would flood into the House to listen to him: it was just a wonderful experience."

Roy Hattersley, for years a fellow West Midlands MP, puts it rather differently: "Much of what Powell said was pure balderdash. The secret of his success with bone-headed Tory backbenchers was built around talking nonsense in pretentious language, which they always mistook for wisdom."

It is far from easy to distil the essence of Powell. He has never written his autobiography. "To return to one's past doings would be like a dog returning to his vomit," he said when we first approached him to make the television portrait, *Odd Man Out*, which will be shown on BBC2 tonight.

Making a film about Powell is like taking a long cross-country drive without a map. Often when you think you are progressing, the road turns out either to be the wrong one, or a dead-end, or a U-turn. Powell is a man of paradox and perversity.

He prides himself on his completely logical mind, yet he is passionately emotional. He fell in love with India during the Second World War, yet he later vehemently opposed Indians coming to live in Britain. He says he was born and will die a Tory, yet he twice advised the electors to vote Labour. And he is a man who seems psychologically at his happiest attaching himself to a lost cause.

Powell was born in a thunderstorm to two Birmingham schoolteachers in 1912. He was a precociously bright only child — so good at Latin and Greek that he would correct his classics masters at his grammar school. He says that he takes after his mother, who had first taught him Greek at home.

"My mother and I were not gentlemen. My father was a gentleman in all his instincts, and this was something that I felt I didn't share. There was something harder, more aggressive in my character, which I shared with my mother: the feeling that we had to fight for whatever we were going to get. I was close to my mother, possibly too close."

"I only realised when she died that my father and I were jealous of one another for my mother's love."

In 1930 Powell won a scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, a training ground for future Cabinet ministers, spies and classical scholars. He took the third option. "I knew nothing else but to work; I had no social life at all."

But what about women at Cambridge?

"They didn't exist," Powell replied.

You must have noticed them, surely?

"Yes, I noticed them. I wondered what they were doing there. I didn't think they would approach advanced learning in the same mood or manner as a man."

Although he claims he knew no women at Cambridge, it was there that Powell wrote his

Continued on page 3, col 1

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## CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

## DANCE

John Percival

**SWAN LAKE:** Swans with a difference in Matthew Bourne's new treatment for his company Adventures in Motion Pictures. An all-male *corps de ballet* and, in the lead, Royal Ballet star Adam Cooper (or company member David Hughes - matinees 11.18, 25, evenings 16.23) as the mysterious swan who fascinates the hero. In contrast to his comic popular reinterpretations of *The Nutcracker* and *La Sylphide*, Bourne says he is playing this one straight, taking his ideas from the music. The New London Orchestra will be in the pit for the London run with David Lloyd Jones conducting; designs are by Lex Brotherston.

**Sadler's Wells Theatre,** Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (0171-713 6000), 7.30pm, 2.30pm on Sat and Thur, until November 25. **G**

**BALLET CLASSIQUE D'EUROPE:** Elena Pankova is remembered as one of the sweetest, most charming of Kirov ballerinas. Late in life she and her husband Kiril Melnikov have been dancing with the Bavarian State Ballet in Munich, but now they and ten other dancers are touring Britain with what appears to be a highly ambitious programme for so small a group, namely extracts from the classics - *La Bayadere*, *Swan Lake* and *Paquita* - as well as a new work, *Tangos at Midnight*, set to music by the celebrated Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla.

**Regent Theatre,** Ipswich (01473 281490), today, 7.30pm; **Wimbledon Theatre,** London SW19 (0181-540 0362), tomorrow, 7.30pm; **Corn Exchange,** Bedford (01234 269519), Mon 13, 8pm; **Opera House,** Blackpool (01253 27786), Tues 14, 7.30pm; **Festival Hall,** Corby, Northants (01536 402233), Wed 15, 7.30pm; **Thur 16, 1.30pm; Ryde Theatre,** Isle of Wight (01983 568099), Fri 17, 7.30pm.

## FILMS

Geoff Brown

**LIVING IN OBLIVION (15):** The title may suggest some modern Dostoevsky moaning at us in black-and-white, but this second feature from Tom DiCillo, director of *Johnny Suede*, offers nothing but laughter. The action unfolds on the set of a low-budget film in New York; or at least the action would unfold if only actors did not preen, and the director stopped having nightmares. The film began as an off-the-cuff short, and the material is overstretched at 90 minutes. An excellent cast, led by Steve Buscemi, keep the jokes coming.

**Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323), MGM's Haymarket (0171-839 1527), Phoenix Screen (0171-930 0631); Ritzy (0171-737 2121).**

**LONDON FILM FESTIVAL:** Some of the films in the festival's last week should help to shake off the winter blues. Carlos Saura's latest dance film, *Flamenco* (tomorrow, Mon 13), will raise anyone's temperature, while you will find it impossible not to warm to the Iranian *The White Balloon* (Mon 13). Lars von Trier's weird television medical soap opera *The Kingdom* (today) lasts five hours. Elsewhere, you can find droll American comedy (*Denise Calls Up*, Thur 16), a pointed Chinese comedy about the Peking police (*On the Beat*, tomorrow), and Michael Curtiz's silent Biblical epic *Sodom and Gomorrah* (today). The end of the week brings stage encounters with Pedro Almodovar, Spike Lee and John Miller: a trio unlikely to make a film together.

**National Film Theatre,** South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 3322).



Swan with a difference: Adam Cooper leads Matthew Bourne's company, Adventures in Motion Pictures, in a gender-bending production of *Swan Lake* at Sadler's Wells, London

## THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

**A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC:** Stephen Sondheim never created sharper, cleverer lyrics than for this musical version of Ingmar Bergman's film, *Smiles of a Summer Night*. Moreover, Sean Mathias's cast is stronger than the one Hal Prince assembled for the show in London 20 years ago. With Judi Dench bringing a genuine sense of loss to *Send in the Clowns*, Sondheim's tale of marriages in crisis maintains both its cynical humour and its melancholy magic.

**National, Olivier, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-928 2252),** Evenings: Wed 15 to Sat 18, 7.15pm; matinees: Thur 16, Sat 18, 2pm. Continues in repertoire. **G**

**THE MASTER BUILDER:** Ibsen began his career by writing heavy poetic drama, continued with realistic plays, and ended with such strange masterpieces as this. Ditto architect Solness, who gives up building both churches and houses in favour of "castles in the air". You are left in little doubt by Alan Bates and the rest of Peter Hall's fine cast that *The Master Builder* was a strongly felt piece of crypto-autobiography: the tale of a man, like its ageing author, desperate to escape the constraints of profession, domesticity and life itself.

**Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London SW1 (0171-930 8800),** Evenings: Mon to Sat, 7.45pm; matinees: Wed, Sat, 3pm. **G**

## OPERA

Rodney Milnes

**THE FAIRY QUEEN:** David Pountney's highly theatrical romp through Purcell's semi-opera has sharply divided critics, but English National Opera audiences are loving it. The music is safe in the hands of the conductor Nicholas Kok, and there is fine singing from the cast headed by Yvonne Kenny.

**Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000),** Thur 16, 7pm.

**Janis Kelly, Mary Hegarty, Michael Chance and Jonathan Best.** All right, we've done scholarship in Purcell before, isn't it time for a bit of sheer enjoyment, which was absolutely central to the work of our British Orpheus?

**Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-632 8300),** tonight, Fri 17, 7.30pm. **G**

**MATHIS DER MALER:** The protagonist of Hindemith's opera is the painter Matthias Grunewald, creator of the Isenheim altarpiece, but the subject is the role of the artist in times of political upheaval, about which the compos-

**er knew a lot. The Nazis got the point and banned Mathis - it was premiered in Zurich in 1938. Since the producer of the Royal Opera's new staging is the doyen terrible Peter Sellars, making his London debut, contemporary concerns may well go unstressed. The strong cast is led by Alan Titus, Wolfgang Fassler, Sigi Anderson and Inga Nielsen, and the conductor is Esa-Pekka Salonen. Thanks to the Foundation for Sports and Arts, seat prices are affordable, so take the advantage of them.**

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Theatrical romp: Yvonne Kenny as the Fairy Queen

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## CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

**HUDDERSFIELD:** For the first time the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival pays extended tribute to a dead composer: Luigi Nono, the avant-garde iconoclast who died five years ago. Many of his pieces - remarkable explorations of intermingled electronic and live sounds - will be new to Britain. Also featured this year is the ultra-complex, but (say his supporters) increasingly sensuous music of James Dillon: plus the 60-year-old father of minimalism, Terry Riley; and a full programme of music theatre, including the piece that opens the festival on Wednesday: Judith Weir's creepy *The Black Spider*. All credit to the Halifax Building Society for sponsoring the most adventurous of all British festivals.

**Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival** (booking and information 01484 430528), Wed to Nov 26.

**HINDEMITH VIOLAS:** Like London, you wait ages for one fascinating festival, then along come two together. While Huddersfield celebrates the new, London's International Hindemith Festival at the Wigmore Hall celebrates not only the German composer whose centenary falls this year, but also the Cinderella stringed instrument which he played so masterfully. The great Japanese viola player Nobuko Imai is the director and key performer here: the music ranges from world premieres to the inevitable Brahms sonatas.

**Wigmore Hall, Wigmore St, London W1 (0171-935 2141),** Wed 15 to Sun 19. **G**

## GALLERIES

Richard Cork

**TURNER PRIZE:** The annual Tate Gallery show of front runners for the £20,000 Turner Prize has been dominated, so far, by public-

ty over Damien Hirst's *Mother and Child Divided*. However, there are plenty of memorable exhibits. Mona Hatoum takes us on a journey through her own body, with the help of tiny medical cameras. Mark Wallinger explores race horse breeding, and joins two animals together in a disturbing hybrid body. Callum Innes, by contrast, is a sensuous abstract painter. He applies colour to his canvases and then washes some of it away with turpentine.

**Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8000),** until December 3. **Richard Cork** will give a tour on November 21 at 1pm.



Mark Wallinger's self-portrait *My Little Eye*, 1995 (detail)

**THE BRITISH ART SHOW:** In a magnificent spirit of collaboration, as many as seven galleries in central Manchester are staging this mammoth exhibition of new art. As one of the selectors, with Rose Finn-Kelley and Thomas Lawson, I hope the show does justice to the exceptional vitality of our contemporary artists. The biggest space is a newly converted Victorian building, Upper Campfield Market. Here, more than half the 26 artists are housed, with work ranging from figurative painting to Damien Hirst's celebrated sheep in a formaldehyde tank. The most ambitious installations can be found else-

where: Douglas Gordon and Ceal Floyer at the Metropolitan Galleries, Mat Collishaw at the Chinese Arts Centre, Georgina Starr at the City Art Galleries, Anya Galaccio at the Castlefield Gallery, and Bridget Smith alongside Marcus Taylor at the Whitworth Art Gallery. Finally, at Cornerhouse, Mark Wallinger shares the three-storey space with Catherine Yass's lightbox photographs, Julie Robert's paintings and a video installation by Sam Taylor-Wood.

**Various venues (information: 0161-953 4239),** tomorrow to February 4.

## MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

**WESTMINSTER KINGS AND THE MEDIEVAL PALACE OF WESTMINSTER:** Without the Reformation much more medieval English art would have survived. But accidents also have their share of the blame: the fire which consumed most of the medieval Palace of Westminster in 1834 destroyed some very grand examples, even though it spared the six lifelike statues of kings of England in the unburnt Westminster Hall. These have now been cleaned and restored and are a key item in this show full of art and anecdote.

**British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-636 1555),** Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm, until January 14. **G**

**BRIGHTON REVEALED:** Brighton rose from a humble fishing village to a fashionable seaside resort in the later 18th century. Artists were there almost immediately, Rowlandson among the earliest, and many watercolourists of the time. This show includes their work, and some of Pugin Senior's glittering records of the Royal Pavilion interiors. But its climax comes with the paintings of the old Chain Pier by Constable and Turner, with related drawings and sketches. The town goes on to inspire artists of the 1890s such as Conder and Sickert, and on to

Piper, Bowden and Ruskin Spear. Brighton Museum and Art Gallery, Chapel Street, Brighton (01273 603005), Mon, Tues, Thur-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2-5pm, until January 28.

## Clive Davis

**LONDON INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL:** Curmudgeons will have to work hard to think of a contemporary style that has been overlooked in this year's programme. Flying in from left field are Lester Bowie and the Art Ensemble of Chicago (Queen Elizabeth Hall, Thur 16). Fusion aficionados can look forward to the soft-focus instrumentals of Spyro Gyra (Shepherd's Bush Empire, Tues 14), while the saxophonist Barbara Thompson will join the Medici String Quartet in an adaptation of the music of Kurt Weill (QEH, Fri 17). Among the other highlights are John Surman, Mike Westbrook and funk party animals Incognito. Various venues, London (information: 0171-405 5974), today to Sun 19.

**GEORGE RUSSELL:** Some heavy-duty big bands have passed through this country over the past year. None is quite as intimidating as George Russell's Living Time Orchestra. Russell specialises in bands which combine the dexterity of jazz with bone-crushing rhythms that are sometimes more reminiscent of Led Zeppelin. The line-up for his Contemporary Music Network tour boasts a British contingent, including Andy Sheppard. **London Jazz Festival:** Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (0171-960 4242), tonight: Turner Sims Hall, Southampton (01703 595151), Fri 17; The Forum, North Parade, Bath (01225 463362), Sat 18; Town Hall, Birmingham (0121-605 6666), Sun 19; Lawrence Batley Theatre, Huddersfield (01484 425082), Mon 20.

## ROCK

David Sinclair

**DAVID BOWIE/MORRISSEY:** David Bowie's new album, *Outside*, is a disappointingly opaque affair, and he has sworn never to play his old hits again. But you cannot write off a performer of his stature, especially when accompanied by a band including Carlos Alomar, Reeves Gabrels and Mike Garson, and supported by a star as big as Morrissey to open the show. **Wembley Arena, Wembley (0181-900 1234),** Nov 14, 15, 17, 18; **NEC, Birmingham (0121-780 4133),** Nov 20, 21; **Kings Hall, Belfast (01232 323 744),** Nov 23; **Point Depot, Dublin (00353 14 569569),** Nov 24; **Westpoint Arena, Exeter (0990 321 321),** Nov 26; **Cardiff International Arena (01222 224468),** Nov 27; **Aberdeen Exhibition Centre (01224 620 011),** Nov 29; **SECC, Glasgow (0141-248 9999),** Nov 30; **Sheffield Arena (0114 565 656),** Dec 3, 4; **Nymex Arena, Manchester (0161-930 8000),** Dec 6; **Newcastle Arena (0191-401 8000),** Dec 7.

**FINN:** Having weathered a stormy sibling relationship both in and out of *Crowded House*, New Zealanders Neil and Tim Finn have teamed up as a duo and released their own album under the name of *Finn*. An idiosyncratic combination of traditional, Beatles-influenced melodies and unusual instrumentation (ukelele, tea chest bass, ancient keyboard), it sounds more like a rough demo than a rock star's acoustic indulgence. **Renfrew Ferry, Glasgow (0141-552 0767),** Nov 13; **City Varieties Hall, Leeds (0113 243 0808),** Nov 14; **Union Chapel, London N1 (0171-226 1686),** Nov 15, 16.

## WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showings in London  
House full, returns only **■** Some seats available **■** Seats at all prices

## THE CABINET OF DOCTOR CALIGARI

A stage version of the German silent classic. Good sets, unearthly music, pointless dancing but a haunting performance by John Ramm as Caligari. **London Theatre Works (0171-494 5078),** Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm. **G**

## DEAD FUNNY

Blends Lang Koven and Sam Kelly's comedy with a hilarious performance by John Ramm as Caligari. **London Theatre Works (0171-494 5078),** Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm. **G**

## THE GRAMINE

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# INSIDE STORY

3

Continued from page 1  
first book of love poems, which revealed the intensity of feeling beneath the ascetic facade.

*Tis true I loved you from the first,  
Yet had I turned away,  
I should have soon forgot  
my thirst  
and happier been today,  
And now your face is graven deep  
Upon my inward sight  
And when I wake and when I sleep  
I see you day and night.  
And since our parting is decreed  
By laws we cannot break,  
The severed tissues long will bleed  
And long the wound will ache.*

I read that and other of his poems to Powell and asked him to whom they were written. "They weren't written to anyone. They were a work of the imagination," he replied. I said I found it hard to believe, as they seemed to come from personal experience. "It is remarkable there is that intensity of emotion and feeling without any specific object being available," he answered.

I said that, looking through his life, there was often a seeming contradiction between the austere image—the black Homburg, the pallid face and the staring eyes—and the deeply passionate figure who, the poems revealed, obviously lurked beneath the surface.

"Ah, 'lurked,'" he responded. "That is the right word: it's the disassociation between emotional life and the intellectual life that I was living at the same time which I have never previously had brought to my attention so dramatically."

From Cambridge until 1939, when he joined the Army, Powell saw his life as "an intermezzo". He had become convinced, soon after Hitler came to power, that war against Germany was inevitable. But his presence was limited. He felt the Nazis would win the war—a prospect he dreaded; and that he would die in the fighting—a prospect he relished.

His poems at the time were obsessed with what he called "alluring death", and one of them ended: *There are but two things, death and life, And death of these is best.*

During the war Powell worked in Military Intelligence, deploying his skills as a textual critic to unravelling intercepted German signals. He became expert in understanding the intentions and psychology of Nazi generals. "The War Office used the part of my body most dangerous to the enemy—my brain. But I am ashamed that I rose from private to brigadier without having seen a shot fired in anger," he says.

Powell taught himself to ride in the Army and, on demobilisation, took up fox-hunting—"The image of war without its guilt and only 25 per cent of its danger".

It was on the hunting field that he at last found a physical object for his passions, rather than an abstraction. He was 38 and she was 24.

Barbara Manna Kennedy

was a colonel's daughter from the Shropshire county set. "I was named after the Derby winner of 1925—the year I was born, so everyone always knows how old I am," she told me. "I couldn't bear to call him Enoch, so I called him John [Powell's first name]."

"I was the first girl he had ever taken out. I'm sure we did kiss at the beginning and end of a date, but you would never have had sex before marriage in those days—after all, you might get pregnant."

"I thought he was super: highly intellectual and very compelling."

Powell says: "It was the first time I had fallen in love, and first love is often the most intense and mysterious of all."

He dedicated a book of poems to his love—identifying her only as "B". He read one to me. It began:

*I dreamt that on a mountain crest,  
as in the sheep-cropped grass we lay...*

And it ended:

*You ceased. The wind that thought the sword  
With steady breathing passion swept  
From flower and grass and heather-blend  
Amen to that same sacrament  
And silent as it seemed we wept.*

There were tears in Powell's eyes as he handed me back the poem, saying: "You mustn't put me in such a position where I am overcome by emotion—old emotion, but resuscitated by the poetry written under the spell of that emotion."

I asked him what had happened to the relationship with Barbara. "It failed. I was not satisfactory," he said.

You mean you joined the Army, when he wanted to marry her and she turned you down?

"That's right," Barbara Kennedy says. "I never thought of matrimony. I never realised he proposed, but then I sometimes didn't understand a word he was saying he was so erudite. I was gobsmacked when he said later that it was a proposal."

Every year he sends his wife a poem, and a red rose.



The woman who did become Mrs Enoch Powell, in 1952, remains her husband's most devoted supporter. Pamela Powell is a political animal, unlike Barbara Kennedy.

"Enoch took her to the Commons when they were together, and she thought the Ayes and Noes lobby was the eyes and nose lobby," Mrs Powell laughs good-naturedly.

Also a colonel's daughter, Pamela Wilson had worked for Powell in his first post after



Barbara Kennedy was 24 at the time she met Enoch Powell, then 38. "I was the first girl he had ever taken out", she says

the war at the Conservative Research Department. "We knew each other quite well as boss and secretary. I found him very attractive: his eyes were very blue and very mesmeric, and he was great fun."

When he proposed to me, on bended knees no less, he said: "I can't promise you anything but grinding poverty and a life totally on the backbenches."

Well, it didn't work out quite like that, did it?

Forty years on they are still happily married, and Powell, on each wedding anniversary, sends his wife a poem which he has written for her, along with a red rose.

"I say, jokingly, that the poems are her pension," Powell says. "I tell her you can publish these when I am dead. I don't know whether this is advice she will follow; I shall not be there to see or to receive the royalties."

That last remark neatly sums up the contradictions in Powell: the market-place romantic. Politically, he can justly claim to have been the British father of market economics. He jokes that Milton Friedman should have shared his Nobel Prize for economics as he had "purloined" his

monetarist theories from Powell.

It was in the mid-Sixties that Powell, as a member of the Shadow Cabinet, first became widely recognised for views well to the right of his leader. Ted Heath, Powell made no secret of his desire to become Prime Minister. A devoted admirer in the Shadow Cabinet was Margaret Thatcher.

"I would say, economically we both hold the same views and I originally got them from Enoch. He was the first to realise that inflation is to do with the money supply," Lady Thatcher says. "Enoch was marvellous at putting policy across. He spoke with his whole body; you would see his hands going, and his eyes and voice were so powerful."

Powell revealed to me one of the secrets of his rhetorical abilities. "You can't make a big speech unless you are nervous. Nerves are part of the act. You should be tense. And if you need to clear your bladder before a big speech, you should refrain if possible."

Powell's bladder was never fuller than on April 20, 1968, the day he made the speech that was to transform his political life. It was the most explosive speech made by any politician since the Second World War. These days Powell claims that he had no idea of the future it would cause, yet examination of his original text suggests otherwise.

Early in the speech, Powell quotes verbatim a conversation he had with one of his constituents:

"In this country in 15 or 20 years' time, the black man will have the whip hand over the white man. Well, I can already hear the chorus of execration. How dare I stir up trouble and inflame feelings by repeating such a conversation? My answer is that I do not have the right not to do so."

Powell went on to read from a letter he said he had received about an elderly widow living in Wolverhampton. He said she was the only white resident in a street that had been taken over by immigrants, but she had refused to let any of

the seven rooms in her house to them. He quoted from the letter: "She is becoming afraid to go out. Windows are broken. She finds excreta pushed through her letterbox. When she goes to the shops she is followed by children—chattering wide-grinning picaninies. They cannot speak English, but one word they know. 'Racialist,' they chant."

Powell said that the growth in the immigrant population meant that "the nation is busy heaping up its own funeral pyre". He ended the speech with a line from Virgil: *As I look ahead I am filled with foreboding. Like the Roman I seem to see the Tiber foaming with much blood.* So Rivers of

blood it became, though Powell had never used the phrase. "An Evil Speech", thundered *The Times* in a leader. And Heath sacked Powell from the Shadow Cabinet.

Hattersley, then a junior Home Office minister, says: "The black and Asian British are accustomed to being condemned and abused by men with shaved heads and tattooed biceps."

"But Enoch Powell was a gentleman in pin-striped trousers. When a man who has been a professor, a brigadier and a Cabinet minister attacks the racial minorities, then racism begins to look respectable—that was the real villainy of the speech."

However, many traditional Labour voters saw it differently. The London dockers and the Smithfield meat porters marched on Parliament chanting: "We want Enoch Powell." And Powell received so many letters of support from voters of all parties that the Royal Mail even laid on a special van for him.

Powell has always kept the letters to himself but, for tonight's BBC television programme, he allowed us access. Most were in his favour, a small number were straight racialist abuse from the green-ink brigade. But the persistent theme was the concern of people that the Britain they knew and had fought for was changing in front of their eyes in ways they did not like, and they had not been consulted.

Of course, many of those writing were hankering after a world which was disappearing for all sorts of reasons other than immigration—but black people were an immediately identifiable symbol of change. Many letters exhibited people's fear of the alien with savage habits: this was a time when there was no Trevor McDonald reading the main evening television news and virtually no black sportsmen in our national football and cricket teams.

I asked Powell whether he was sorry that his speech had provided ammunition for racialists, such as the National Front, to use against black people in this country. "What's wrong with racism?" he replied. "Racism is the basis of nationality. Nations are, upon the whole, united by identity with one another, the self-identification of our citizens. And that's normally due to similarities



Powell as a Cambridge undergraduate in 1937

which we regard as racial similarities," Powell admits to no regrets about the speech, and as for his rivers of blood prophecy, he says: "Well, we have yet to see."

He once famously remarked that all political lives, unless cut off in midstream at a happy juncture, end in failure. I asked if that was the verdict he would deliver on his own political career. Characteristically he chopped his own logic.

"Ah, end in political failure, yes. Mine has ended in failure from one point of view. Without a seat, without office, without apparent achievement. But I've achieved a great deal and I hear my voice coming through in what is said. And I see myself being proved right."

"What I had to say about immigration, about the nation and about Europe was heard and is still echoing."

The life-long classical scholar can reflect on the supreme irony in his own life: that the rivers-of-blood speech transformed him into a national figure, yet at the same time ensured he would never be given what he most wanted: charge of the nation's destiny.

Michael Cockerell's film portrait of Enoch Powell, *Cold Man On Ice*, is on BBC2 tonight at 8.25. The producer is Bill Trehan Jones.

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Ruth Gledhill attends the dedication of Tonbridge School chapel in Kent

## Rebuilt from the ashes



cal sense, or induce metaphysical implications from his name. But none thought it was the work of the Holy Spirit when wisps of smoke floated upwards towards the roof of the chapel in which he had been an hour before, and flames leapt through the delicate tracery of the nave windows.

Tonbridge School chapel, built at the start of the century, burnt down on September 17, 1989, before an assembly of appalled and fascinated boys and local people who gathered on the cricket ground to watch. Nothing remained of the stained glass, organ, panelling, pews, high altar and reredos, and the walls and floor were badly damaged.

After initial plans to build a new chapel at the school, which is in a conservation area, were rejected, the governors decided to rebuild the burnt-out shell. With another appropriately named man at the helm, architect Donald Buttress, surveyor for Westminster Abbey, the once dark and gloomy building emerged from its ordeal transformed into a magnificent arena of music, light and sacramental worship. At £7 million, it is one of the most costly restorations of a British church, but few who see the result of three years' work could argue it had not been worth it.

This was in essence a new church, and new music had been commissioned, but as one of a handful of women there amid a mass of boys, masters and governors, the sense was of stepping

back centuries into the cloisters of some ancient abbey. Brass candelabra with oil candles hung over the oak pews, beneath stencilled paintwork on the ceiling. Far beyond, in the perspective of the sanctuary, a massive stone altar looked solid enough to withstand the apocalypse, never mind a fire. And even though organs are in ecclesiastical terms relatively new inventions, the sounds of the men's and boys' voices accompanied by the extraordinary new 66-stop organ added to the feeling that something ancient had been brought, renewed, into the modern.

Before the clergy, servers, choir, headmaster and governors processed

★ A five star guide to the service ★

**HEADMASTER:** Martin Hammond.

**ARCHITECTURE:** New chapel built from remains of original, incorporating as much as possible of the old fabric. ★★★★★

**SERMON:** Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester, told us the chapel "should be a place of generosity, a place where you learn the difference between what is true, good and beautiful, and what is false, evil and ugly". ★★★★★

**MUSIC:** Difficult to equal outside a cathedral, the highlight being Jonathan Dove's Gloria, composed for the dedication. ★★★★★

**LITURGY:** Long but effective dedication. ★★★★★

**AFTER-SERVICE CARE:** Refreshments served for guests. ★★★★★

**SPIRITUAL HIGH:** A glimpse into a remarkable world. ★★★★★

in, the Bishop of Newcastle, the Right Rev Alec Graham, opened our service with a prayer. "Almighty God," he said, "receive the work of our hands in the chapel, to be set apart for your worship, the building up of the living, and the remembrance of the dead." The Bishop of Rochester, Dr Michael Nazir-Ali, ordered the door open and, with his pastoral staff, marked the threshold with the sign of the cross. During the two-hour service, he preached the sermon, consecrated the altar, blessed the organ and the font, sprinkled the Lady Chapel walls, the congregation, sanctuary and altar with water from the font and presided at the eucharist.

"The whole people grows into a holy temple in the Lord," we heard in the lesson, before the gospel and sermon, in which Dr Nazir-Ali reflected on the large number of houses at Tonbridge, a public school. "I know that these houses are not mere buildings," he said. "They are communities of pupils and teachers who work and play together."

A senior boy thanked God "for the designers and draughtsmen, for the builders and craftsmen". The bishop, censing the altar, asked that "our prayer ascend as incense in your sight", before the altar was "dressed" by the clergy, and candles lit by servers in preparation for the communion that followed.

Outside, the day was unseasonably warm. The chapel had smelt only of new oak and incense, and we had spoken and sung in English and Latin; but as we left our hearts were full of thoughts of fire, and of those who enter into that school speaking in tongues of boys and who emerge as men.

The Chapel of St Augustine of Canterbury, Tonbridge School, High Street, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1JP. Tel: 01732 365555.



## OUTDOORS

## Wanted: a Darcy for my thresher

I suppose most red-blooded British males have, for the past six weeks, been going round imagining themselves to be Mr Darcy. But the more I have watched *Pride and Prejudice*, the more I have come to realise that my real role model is not the smouldering Mr Darcy, but Mrs Bennett.

It was of her that Jane Austen wrote: "She was a woman of mean understanding, little information and uncertain temper." I recognise myself.

My problem is that the end of my farming career is looming, and my large and troublesome brood must be disposed of. The sheep, pigs, cattle and, yes, even the machinery must be found good homes. They must marry well and not just for love, but for a decent bit of money too. Mrs Bennett has all my sympathy.

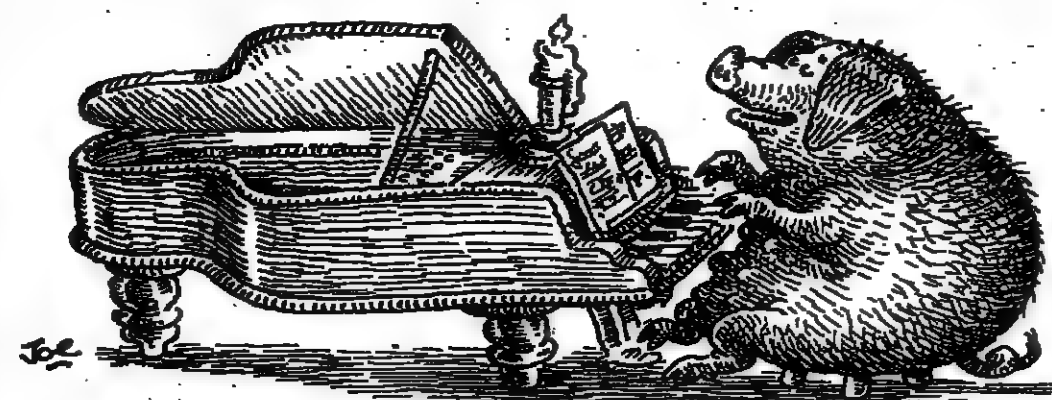
Like her, I see most of my daughters as deserving. I am perhaps a bit more careful than her, though: the livestock are certainly not going to market, where bidders like Mr Wickham can go off to an unsuitable fate. I shall inspect all their future homes

before they leave the farm, and satisfy myself that they have made good matches.

However (and I would not wish her to hear me say this), our old sow Alice is now very slow on her feet, stone deaf, and at the end of her piglet-bearing days. She may be destined to stay on the shelf. She is as much a worry to me as Mary probably ended up to Mrs Bennett. At least if I end up with her still at home, she won't play the piano and quote scripture all day.

Sage, the British White cow is Jane: as good as she is beautiful, willing to lick the boots of any man who pays her the slightest attention. She will have no trouble finding her Mr Bingley.

The silly and flirtatious sheep are a different matter: they would run after any troop of licentious soldiery, especially if it had a bucket of sugar-beet nuts, and may well end up in the clutches of some ill-bred ram. Serve them right. But, I promise you, I shall deploy all available uncles with horse-



whips to ensure that they are properly treated.

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HENRY

The next step is somehow to bolster my faith that it is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a thresher machine. Is there a Darcy or a Bingley out there (preferably with a fortune) who might care for a threshing machine and binder?

Here I become more desperate and callous like my role model: frankly, Mr Collins can have either of them.

The trouble with all this aged farming gear is that, unlike the radiant Sage, or Bilberry the Red Poll with her big Jennifer Ehle

eyes, the machinery's appeal is narrow. Actually, I cannot imagine anybody other than me who wants it.

None of it is worthy of a space in a museum, yet neither is any of it so commonplace as to earn a home on the scrapheap.

So may I describe the virtues of these two machines in the hope that love might blossom? I cannot

speak for their utter fidelity: I do understand that falling in love with a bit of farming gear can be a heart-breaking business. But as Mr Bennett said: "Next to being married, a girl likes to be crossed in love a little now and then", and why should not the same be true of men?

And it does have a certain bloom. My Ransomes Threshing Machine is gloriously pink, freshly painted a couple of years ago a delicate shade not unlike a blushing maiden's cheeks.

I did love her then, truly I did. She is of magnificent stature, a noble lass who hums as she works to take the long straws of cut corn and turn them into straw and grain. A giving girl. At least she was, until her breakdown.

That was a day to remember. She started all sweet and light, happily going about her daily tasks, sighing a little as was her way but always willing. Till there was a bang. Her innards collapsed. It was not just a physical

breakdown, her spirit was crushed too.

She suffered endless hours under the surgeon's spanner, but it was down to me to instil in her the will to thresh once again. At the moment she's fine, but she certainly needs a Mr Darcy.

Things are more complicated than that, because the binder and the threshing machine really need a double wedding like the one the BBC gave Jane and Lizzy.

What use, says the binder, is my convoluted mechanism of cutter and knoter if the beloved thresher into which I wish my sheaves to be fed is no longer by my side? They are as close as tin and tin opener and to separate them would verge on cruelty.

You see my dilemma? It is beginning to get me down. It is enough to have to find one husband for each of my family, but almost impossible to find a bigamist who wants to wed two of my daughters.

As Mrs Bennett said: "Nobody is on my side, nobody takes part with me: I am cruelly used, nobody feels for my poor nerves."

## Buy your own field and stop the developers

Rob Jarman owns two fields on the edge of the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire: nine acres of wild pasture, casually grazed, free of pesticides and artificial fertiliser. He bought them two years ago to save them from the clutches of a farmer, "a big arable guy who's ripped out all his hedges".

Mr Jarman is no hippy. An environmental management officer for the National Trust, he is one of a growing band of new landowners, neither farmers nor developers, who are villagers buying fields simply to preserve them. Unimproved pasture, they realise, is a dwindling resource. According to the figures, they are arriving just in the nick of time. The Department of Environment's 1990 Countryside Survey detailed the extent to which herbicides and fertilisers have reduced the number of wildflowers: how continued hedgerow removal has deprived wildlife of food and shelter; and how deep ploughing is damaging trees and hedge roots, thus making them more susceptible to drought and disease.

Mr Jarman's alternative is no cheap hobby: his fields, one of which borders his converted farmhouse, cost him more

With more countryside being ruined, there is one solution that is foolproof

than £12,000. But he has no regrets. "It's a constant joy. We've got three kids who are always out there." When the fields are not being grazed by a friend's sheep, he leaves all gates open: neighbours and rambles are welcome to wander, picnic and camp. Every year he invites the villagers on to his land to celebrate the autumn equinox. With his background in land management, he is more equipped than most to care for land.

But it is the historical side to the land which most excites him. The fields are part of the Flaxley Abbey Estate, which was broken up in the 1950s. Their surface is corrugated, an indication that the old ridge and furrow technique of horse-drawn ploughing has been undisturbed by modern farming methods. The hedges are jostling with different trees

and shrubs, in particular the rare small-leaved lime. There are uncommon wildflowers, too: adder tongue's fern and corky-fruited waterdrop wort. He is less clear on the meaning of the fields' names: Glapsons Hill draws a blank; the other, Cox's Field, he believes is named after a local farmer.

A deep tunnel running through the fields has a hazel and field-maple canopy. This, Mr Jarman says, used to be a packhorse route from the river to the abbey, along which monks would lead horses laden with iron ore: the abbey had its own smelting works. "It's an amazing feature. It's got very deep sides, worn down by 100 years of pack-horses. The whole place is a time capsule, which now will be preserved," he says.

But intensive agriculture is not the only bogey to the nation's ancient meadows: development, too, poses an increasingly insistent threat. It was to counter such a threat that, 12 years ago, villagers banded together in Painswick, Gloucestershire, so untouched by development that it boasts the nickname Queen of the Cotswolds. A three-acre field, named Hambuts Field after the butts at which medieval archers would practise their marks-



The man who helped to save his local field: Rob Jarman pictured on the land with Jane, his wife, and their children, Polly, Jack and Tom

manship, was owned by a property developer. After his application to build 25 houses was turned down, a group of neighbours asked him to sell. Dr Richard Jarrett, one of the five who put up the required £10,000, remembers: "The development would have been out of character entirely. Painswick is part of the Cotswold Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Hambuts Field, which has the Cotswold Way running straight through it, is also right in the centre of

the village. Fortunately, the developer was amenable and we agreed a reasonable price: rather more than its agricultural value, but still a fraction of the development value." Because their aim was to preserve and not to own the land, Dr Jarrett and the others gave it to the Open Spaces Society; any change of use now has to be agreed by an Act of Parliament. Dr Jarrett and his neighbours have formed a committee to run the field. It has, he says, been "a great

success. It's the nearest field to the centre of the village and everyone has open access. We've put nice seats in it and a standing water pipe for people to drink from. We've cordoned off one corner so that tents can be pitched there. On any evening in the summer we might have two or three tents belonging to people walking the Cotswold Way. So far we've had backpackers from Holland, Germany, France, Italy, the United States and Australia."

As befits a communal field, there are no restrictions on dogs: it is, in fact, the only place in the village where dogs are allowed to exercise. And, like Mr Jarman's meadows, there are interesting trees and wild animals. Dr Jarrett says: "We've got two 300-year-old ash trees and one 400-year-old hedge. We keep the ivy in the trees for bats and birds to nest in and don't allow any pesticides. There is an amazing

number of butterflies and wildflowers."

Buying a field in this way is not always straightforward, says Sue Clifford, of Common Ground, the environmental charity. "There are endless possibilities. Finding out who owns the land can be hard enough, whether it's freehold or leasehold. And then how to own it? This could be individually, as a parish council, a local trust or a charity."

EDWARD MARRIOTT

Common Ground, Seven Dials Warehouse, 44 Eardham Street, London WC2H 9LA (0171-379 3104). Open Spaces Society, 25a Ball Street, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 3BA (01491 573533).

Reading: The pamphlet "Ground Rules: a guide to some of the legal aspects of community land ownership and management", is published by Rural Action, Somersford Court, Somersford Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1TV. £5. A History of English Field Names, by John Field (Longman, 1993). The History of the Countryside, by Oliver Rackham (Wildeyfield & Nicholson, 1993). A Year in the Life of a Field, by Michael Atabay (David & Charles, 1981).

## Feather Report

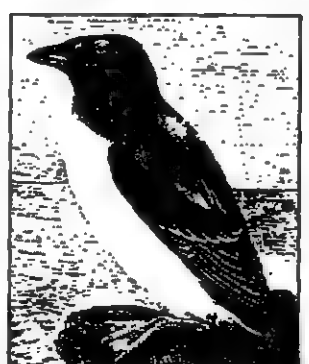
## A lively little auk

GREAT auks are extinct, but the little auk lives on. It is a very little auk indeed, about eight inches tall when standing on a cliff, and it lives mainly within the Arctic Circle. It has a stubby body that gives it a face like a frog, and it nests in rock fissures that have been cracked open by the frost.

The bird feeds on plankton around the pack ice, and even in winter only a few come very far south. In the first half of November, however, small flocks of little auks do pass along the east coast of Britain, though well out to sea. They are seen by the hardened coastal watchers, who will stand all day looking out to sea, armed with powerful telescopes.

As the little auks speed over the waves, they look more like starlings than seabirds, and they soon pass out of sight. It is only when there are fierce storm winds at sea that they are found inland in this country, and then they are usually dead. In February 1983, about 1,200 corpses of little auks were found on the east side of England.

However, in the high Arctic they are thriving. They wheel in flocks round their breeding sites like swarms of insects. The great auks of Greenland and Newfoundland died out in 1844, the victims of fishermen who ate them and their eggs, until there were none left. But there may still



Little auks fly past the coast

be as many as 30 million little auks in the world. Some ornithologists think that little auks are the most abundant seabird. So their chances look a little brighter than those of their great cousins.

DERWENT MAY

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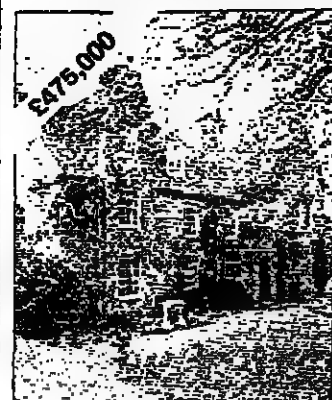
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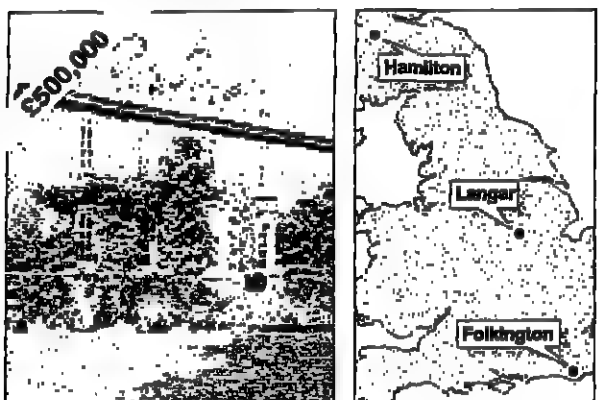
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**Scotland:**  
Barnclith, Hamilton, Lanarkshire. Historic house, recently renovated, with a fortified tower and four acres of gardens in a woodland setting, with frontage on the River Avon. Seven bedrooms, dressing room, bedroom and shower room, gallery hall, three reception rooms, modern kitchen and breakfast room. Tower on three floors in need of renovation. Stone coach house, with garaging, offices and stables. About £470,000 (Knight, Frank and Rutley, 0181 225 8171).



**Nottinghamshire:**  
Langar House, Langar, Grade II listed country house in 5½ acres of formal walled gardens and paddocks within the Vale of Belvoir. Nine bedrooms, three bathrooms, four reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, cellars. Separate two-bedroom cottage. Garaging and outbuildings. Offers over £500,000 (Strutt & Parker, 01858 433123).

CHERYL TAYLOR

The Scots are building new castles, combining tradition with double glazing and central heating

## Tower blocks with a difference

Ally Black and his family should be living in a Scottish castle this time next year. Only the small matter of it being built precludes them from moving in now.

Mr Black already owns the 30-acre site where the three-storey edifice will stand and the plans have been approved by Borders Regional Council. The castle will be built in the tradition of the Scottish tower house. "These buildings, though not constructed on the scale of Edinburgh or Stirling castles, are generally known in Scotland as castles."

The castle has been designed by Crichton Wood, who has made a study of more than 400 Scottish castles. Mr Wood has given a late 20th-century stamp to traditional tower-house castle features such as vertical build, thick walls, predominance of wall space over windows, steeply pitched slate roofs and turrets with conical roofs.

The modern touches include two glass turrets, and Mr Black's castle will not be built of traditional stone, but concrete blocks harled (rendered) in cement and lime. Where possible, steel and brass will be used for details around the doors and windows. The castle will have a steel chimney, central heating, double glazing and proper insulation.

The tradition of building vertically is deeply ingrained in Scottish architecture: from tenements to castles. Through the centuries defensive considerations have given way to aesthetic ones.

Borders council's assistant director of planning, Ian Borthwick, says the quality of both design and site convinced councillors of its merit. He says: "Normally we wouldn't approve a castle like this just on any site but there used to be a mansion close by and the new building will stand in a collection of trees on a knoll, overlooking a small loch."

Mr Black says: "I am a



Ravens' Craig, started eight years ago, displays the classic vertical build, thick walls and small windows of a Scottish castle

designer and manufacturer of reproduction furniture so I don't always see that old things are better than new." For about £120,000-£140,000 he will get what he calls the shell of the building, incorporating three bedrooms, lounge, dining room, library, circular staircase, kitchen, utility room, two bathrooms and double garage. He will fit the interiors himself, including oak or walnut floors, at a cost of £30,000-£40,000.

Building new castles in Scotland is unusual but not unknown. Strutt & Parker, the agent, is offering Strathieburn Castle, built eight years ago 12

miles from Aberdeen, for sale for more than £380,000. They say that the castle was the first to be constructed on Royal Deeside since Balmoral was built for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert in the 1850s. Architect Ron Gauld, who designed it for himself, says he wanted to recycle materials such as granite, slates, timber and stone flags salvaged from a dozen buildings around Aberdeen.

Strathieburn has a great hall, dining room, large sitting room/kitchen, four bedrooms, three of them en suite, a laundry and the potential for another three bedrooms. The

views along the valley of Royal Deeside to the Grampian mountains beyond are terrific.

While Strathieburn harks back to the 16th-century castle, the four-storey Ravens' Craig, near Plockton, on the west coast of Scotland, has a more contemporary feel. Architect Ian Begg, who designed it, started work in 1987 and moved in five years ago.

The building is an imposing structure, which has a 16ft x 23ft hall, used as a sitting room, occupying most of the first floor, a lift shaft, under-

ground heating on all floors except the top, four bedrooms, a games and work room and good use of the 3ft space between inside and outside walls. Here can be found cupboards, a computer room, drinks cabinet, lavatory, quiet room and one flight of stairs. The main staircase extends to the first floor and then continues up through a turret. One of the house rules is not to go up the steps empty-handed.

In the spandrels, the space above the vaulted roof over the ground floor kitchen-living room, are two 400-gallon water tanks, heated overnight using off-peak electricity.

### Turret tips

□ Strutt & Parker, St Nicholas House, 68 Station Road, Banbury, Kincardineshire AB34 3YJ. (01330 824888). Ian Begg Architects, 4a Howe Street, Edinburgh EH3 6TD. (0131 225 1788). Ron Gauld Architects, 11 Thistle Place, Aberdeen AB1 1UZ. (01224 635272). Pease and Partners, 3 Fire Hill Cottages, Rumbling Bridge, Kinross KY13 7PX. (01577 840751). Crichton Wood, 135 Rose Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LS. (0131 220 2602).

□ The Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, 15 Rutland Square, Edinburgh (0131 229 7545).

The cost of Ravens' Craig has been about £250,000, but Mr Begg says: "When you've got the roof on you haven't spent half of your money. It's all in the finishes."

Six years ago, Matthew Pease, another architect, designed a castle in Clackmannanshire in the fashion of a 16th-century building. But now he believes the traditional style needs to be updated. He cites the need to make greater use of modern materials such as glass, steel and concrete, the use of quicker construction techniques and the need to get more light into castles than is allowed through the traditional small windows. Mr Pease says: "The advantages of building new is that the castles are much warmer, have good finishes and all modern conveniences."

Certainly, this is what Ally Black envisages in his yet-to-be-built castle in the Scottish Borders. "I like to try different things and I've got a young enthusiast who's dying to be given licence to do something different. I think we're both quite brave," he says.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

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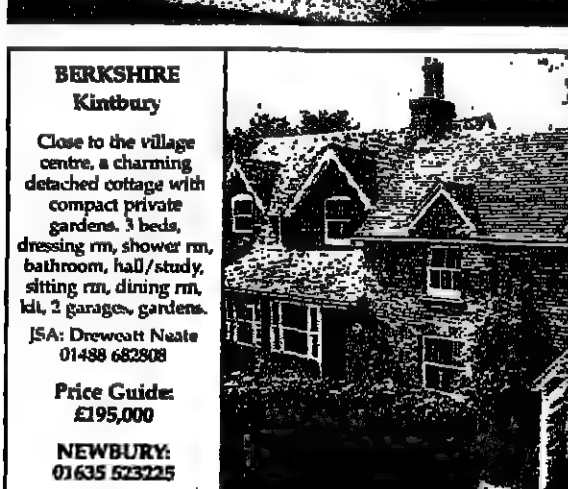
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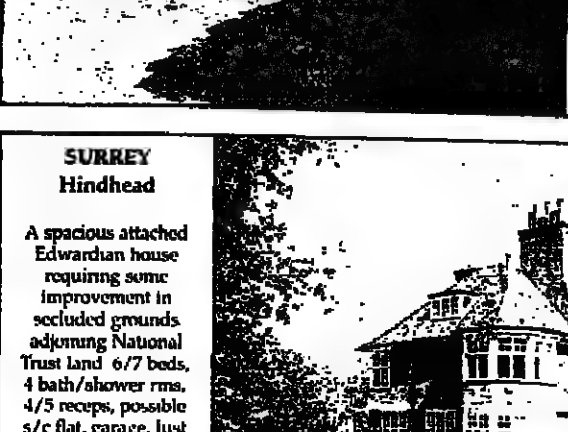
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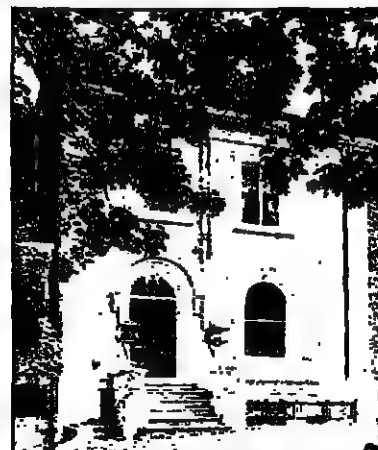


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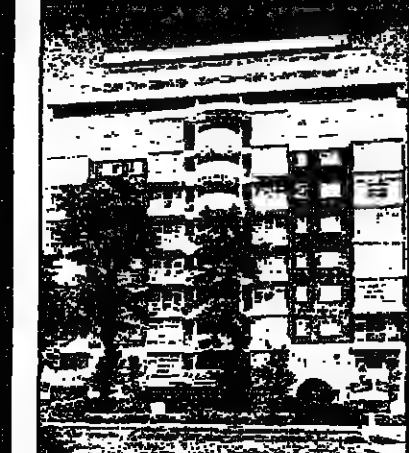


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# SHOPPING

11

Buying from charity catalogues eases the conscience and beats the crowds

## Shopping by the book for Christmas presents



Save the Children's Golden Pooker bookends (£19.99) are sturdy enough to support several volumes

I love the bustling atmosphere of the streets and shops in the run-up to Christmas — but only if I'm not still frantically looking for the perfect, but elusive, present as Christmas Eve approaches. Shopping from charity catalogues has the twin advantages of avoiding the crowds and giving a sense of doing some good in a relentlessly commercial season. I have examined the charity gifts I would consider buying for friends and family to make sure that they are up to scratch.

The National Trust catalogue is one of the best for elegant presents. The Trust's centenary is celebrated with its Robert Adam-inspired Wedgwood Collection mug (£19.95), round-lid box (£35.95) and rectangular trinket tray (£37.95), all in pale yellow, rich blue and 22-carat gold. A traditional bagatelle board (30½ in x 15½ in) costs £62.50; and the oak (yes, it really is wood) personal desk organiser is £41.50. The simple but pretty Shell Gift Box (£9.95), containing bath salts, flannel and shell-shaped soap in a shell-decorated box, is perfect for feminine but not frilly friends. The best source for fashion-conscious and globally aware friends and relations is in the Tribale catalogue from Survival.

Although small, everything in it is attractive and of good quality. Any stylish teenager would be happy to carry the lunch box (£9.95) made from tough clear plastic and decorated with black Anasazi cave art — the Anasazi were the forefathers of today's Pueblo peoples of New Mexico and Arizona. The mugs in this



range (£3.95 each) will be gratefully received by design junkies with black and white kitchens; also monochrome is the cool Striding Bushman T-shirt (£11.99) bearing a simple Namibian cave painting.

There are bright colours, too, with the Indian hammock (£24.95) and seductively soft wool jacquard "Timberwolf" throw (180cm x 130cm, £49.99). I will be asking Father Christmas for the Amazonian petroglyph jewellery in porcelain and burnished with designs taken from rock carvings (earrings and brooch, £14.95 each), and will order the cufflinks (£14.95) for male friends. From the RSPCA, a floral wallbox (8½ in x 6½ in x 2½ in, £9.99) comes with four miniature clay pots of dried and silk flowers and the Cat World notebook (£5.99) is a 3½ in cube of recycled paper sheets decorated with cats; the RSPCA Collection (£5.95 each, or three for £14.95), consisting of die-cast models of RSPCA

vehicles past and present, is going straight to a four-year-old I know.

Animal lovers should also send off for the Worldwide Fund for Nature catalogue. Its pewter jaguar brooch (4in, £12.99) gets away from the cuddly-animal look and will match this season's jungle prints; cotton Serengeti boxer shorts (size medium and large, £14.99) are printed with endangered species from tigers to gorillas. My favourite present for the nursery is the alphabet throw (66in x 43½ in, £29.99) in blue and cream cotton, with each letter incorporating an animal picture.

The Great Ormond Street/Barnardos catalogue offers Santa slippers (size one to six, £4.99-£5.99), which children will enjoy prancing about in on Christmas Day; it also has a coated-wire candle holder (£9.99) and matching wine cradle (£7.99) decorated with grapes and vine leaves.

After a few drinks at Christmas, we tend to sing embarrassing hits of previous decades: the NSPCC's Humm Bug game (£12.99) will broaden the repertoire. The NSPCC's Mini Plane, made from a sparkplug (£8.99), is tailor-made for the mechanic manqué; while the polished chrome-lock clipless paper fastener (£5.99) is the accessory of the moment for the executive's desk. You can insert favourite photographs into the NSPCC's Victorian-style Mini Photo Bookmarks (set of three, £4.99). I would like one of the Save the Children's wonderfully

Above left, Anasazi plastic lunch box, £9.95. Top, rock-carving cufflinks, £14.95. Both from Survival's Tribale catalogue. Above, the Worldwide Fund for Nature's pewter jaguar brooch, £12.99

eccentric, spring-operated Wupper Airlines mobiles (6½ in long, 12in wing-span, £24.99). Its Golden Porter bookends (£19.99), making the front and back halves of a hefty squealer, are sturdy enough to support several impressive tomes. I also like the lightweight Montecristo Panama hats (£19.99), which are hand-woven and gift-wrapped in Ecuador, and will buy its Christmas gift sack of 20 luminous stars (£3.99) for some cosmic decorating.

The RSPB's sterling-silver acorn cufflinks (£34.95) will look good with a tweed jacket and jeans, and its William de Morgan kitchen accessories, with elegant fish and sea-



Tribale's Amazonian petroglyph jewellery

water fowl in blues and golden yellows — tea towel in 100 per cent Irish linen, £3.99; oven mitt and apron in 100 per cent cotton, £7.99 each — are perfect for classic kitchens. A cricket fan friend will be receiving the RSPB's resin cricket-bell clock (£29.95), and the Historic View of the Cricket Bat (10½ in x 11½ in, £49.50) from the British Heart Foundation. This is a box-framed collection of scale-model cricket bats from the curved bat of 1720 to Jack Hobbs' bat of the 1930s. A traditionalist will cherish

### A round-up of the mail-order catalogues

- The British Heart Foundation: p&p £3.25. Last order: December 4 (catalogue: 01763 420000).
- Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital/Barnardos: p&p £2.59-£1.49 on orders up to £100, then free. Last order: December 1 (catalogue: 01268 28577).
- Marie Curie Cancer Care: p&p £2 on orders up to £20, then free. Last order: December 14 (catalogue: 01672 542233).
- The National Trust: p&p £1.95 on orders up to £15, £3.95 on orders over £15. Last order: December 8 (catalogue: 01225 705676).
- NSPCC: £3.35 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order: December 14 (catalogue: 01283 506103).
- Oxfam: p&p £2.95 on all orders. Allow 28 days for delivery (catalogue: 01869 245011).

- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds: p&p £3.35 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order: December 15 (catalogue: 01283 506200).
- RSPCA: p&p £1.95 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order: December 15 (catalogue: 01283 506122).
- Save the Children: p&p £3.35 on orders up to £70, then free. Last order: December 15 (catalogue: 01283 506600).
- Tribale: p&p £2.95 on orders up to £15, £3.95 on orders over £15 (catalogue: 0171-342 1441).
- Worldwide Fund for Nature: p&p £3.35. Last order: December 15 (catalogue: 01283 506103).
- All profit from the direct sale of items featured here goes wholly to the charity concerned.

## Lips that go on for ever

Most manufacturers claim that their lipsticks are longer lasting and more luxurious than the rest, but which products do last through a normal day?

I tested a range from the less expensive brands to the luxury end of the market and gave each one a rating out of ten, taking into account staying power and value for money.

**Khel's Since 1851 Inc Ultra Matte Lipstick.** Colour: Indian Rose 977 (deep pink). Price: £16.50. For stockist inquiries ring 0181-297 2645. VERDICT: This American brand had a soothing texture that feels more like a lip balm than lipstick, but has the staying power of some of the drier lip colours. Cups of tea, a lasagne and an ice cream could not budge it, and the lipstick stayed on my lips rather than on the cup and cutlery. I wish all lipsticks were like this — but cheaper. RATING: 9/10 (would be 10/10 if it weren't so expensive).

**Marks & Spencer Perfect Lipstick.** Colour: Madrid (deep red). Price: £5. Available from selected branches of Marks & Spencer nationwide. VERDICT: Very stylish packaging — especially for the price. Felt very light in texture but gave excellent coverage and moisture. Stayed put until supper time, when — it finally vanished. Left a few trace marks on my first hot drink, but stayed firm after that. Excellent value. RATING: 9/10.

**Max Factor Lasting Colour with Lip Tattoo.** Colour: Purest Rose 110 (deep pink). Price: £3.99. Available from good chemists and department stores nationwide. VERDICT: A moisture-rich lipstick that gave an even finish and lasted well into the afternoon, through a hot lunch and regular liquid refreshment. A little colour transferred to cups and glasses. By about 4pm reapplification was necessary. Good value. RATING: 8/10.

**Ultima II Lipstexxy Lipcolour.** Colour: Just for Him Red 03 (bright red). Price: £11.50. Available from major department stores nationwide. VERDICT: The lipstick has a flat top rather than the more

Pucker up for lipsticks which have staying power

usual wedge-shape. This means that if you don't use a lip brush, getting a neat line is tricky. However, once it was on it stayed on and only left slight traces of red on a glass. The colour seemed to stain the lips, and I had trouble taking it off at the end of the day. You sacrifice that comfortable, moist feeling to get the staying power. Expensive, but does the job. RATING: 8/10.



Khel's Ultra Matte Lipstick

### Know-how

Tracy Cracknell, beauty director at the Ragdale Clinic in London, shares her lipstick tips:

- Always moisturise your lips and apply foundation and loose powder.
- Use a taping lip pencil.
- Apply the first coat of lipstick with a brush, then blot with a tissue. Apply a dusting of powder before the final coat.
- In summer keep lipsticks in the fridge.

**Body Shop Colourings Lip Ink.** Colour: Amethyst 02 (dark burgundy red). Price: £2.95. Available from branches of The Body Shop nationwide. VERDICT: A felt-tip style pen, reminiscent of the sort that used to leak in your pencil case at school. The compact tip makes application easy and neat, drawing an outline and colouring it in. The result was even, acting more like a stain than a surface colour. However, it was dry, which left me wanting to add lip salve. It didn't leave a trace on cups or glasses. The colour lasted amazingly well but was difficult to remove. RATING: 8/10.

**Cutex Lasting Colour Lipstick.** Colour: Madeira Wine 47 (dark burgundy red). Price: £3.49. Available from good chemists and department stores nationwide. VERDICT: A creamy lipstick that looked rich when applied. Survived both the cup of tea and the kiss test. It started to wear off after lunch but still looked respectable by late afternoon, when it started to "bleed" around the edges. Good value. RATING: 7/10.

**Lancôme Rouge A Lèvres Magiques.** Colour: Prunelle 421 (blackcurrant). Price: £12.00. Available from chemists and department stores. VERDICT: A comfortable, creamy texture that looked perfect for about five hours, despite leaving creamy marks on my glass every time I drank from it. It then started to wear. It does fade with dignity though, without looking blotchy or bleeding around the edges. Expensive. RATING: 6/10.

**Rimmel Lasting Finish Lipstick.** Colour: Black Cherries 08 (blackcurrant). Price: £1.99. Available from good chemists and department stores nationwide. VERDICT: Rich, creamy texture on application which gave a deep, even colour. One mug of coffee later and it started to look as if I had applied clear lip gloss with just a hint of colour. It left a distinct mark on the mug. By lunchtime, the only traces of colour left were the streaks ingrained in the lines of my lips. But at that price, you don't mind having to reapply a couple of times a day. RATING: 4/10.

KAREN KAY

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## BOOKS

## Why can't the Booker be more fun?

The annual ceremony for Britain's most important literary prize could be beefed up with a bit more showbiz glitz and rather less ritual

Those of you who watched Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road* win the Booker Prize on BBC2 last Tuesday almost certainly found out more about the state of English fiction than the fortunate guests at the Guildhall in their evening gowns and black ties. Some of us should love to have watched Sarah Dunant chatting with the novelists Michele Roberts and Howard Jacobson, plus Bill Buford of *The New Yorker* — not to mention interviews with the shortlisted authors, extracts read aloud, vox-pop sampling of opinion, and much more.

I am particularly sorry to have missed the stand-off between Jacobson and Buford: the former apparently criticised the hot favourite, Salman Rushdie's *The Moor's Last Sigh* ("I don't believe in any of these characters"), but was silenced by Buford's reply: "We're talking

about fiction here, Howard. You aren't supposed to believe in it."

I arrived at the Guildhall halfway through the main course, having dashed across the City after writing my piece on the winner. (A handful of journalists on the national dailies have to be given the result in advance, in strictest confidence, otherwise the story would miss the early editions and deprive our more distant readers.) The evening then followed its traditional course. Apart from food and drink, the guests are left for an hour or two to provide their own entertainment; there is no presentation of the authors and their books on a big screen, as happens at the Whitbread Book of the Year. Then come the speeches.

On Tuesday there were speeches by the chairman of Booker plc, Jonathan Taylor; the chairman of the judges, George Walden MP; the winner, Pat Barker; the retiring chairman of the steering committee and founding father of the prize, Sir Michael Caine; and Professor Gillian Beer, who spoke about Sir Michael.

Some of these speeches were funny — though not for all present Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, looked rather uncomfortable when George Walden took a cheeky sideswipe at Jeffrey Archer's novels and John Major's taste for them. We

shall miss Sir Michael's celebrated stammer, which is almost as much of an institution as the prize itself, and his magnificent commitment, sustained over a quarter of a century, to our leading literary prize.

Now, however, that Booker has a new broom, in the businesslike shape of Mr Taylor, the organisers should make it their first task to revamp the event itself. This is, after all, one of very few annual occasions when the



DANIEL JOHNSON

nation's attention is briefly caught by writers. Yet it has already become unduly ritualised. Without adding greatly to the considerable cost to the sponsors, the evening could be made much more fun.

Why not, for instance, have large displays around the hall, with extracts from the shortlist and, perhaps, quotes from the critics? There should certainly be a large screen, so that everybody can see what is going on. I do not necessarily

advocate hiring a presenter, though we have found that the Times/Dillons debates and lectures do benefit from the skills of a professional such as Melvyn Bragg. More important is that the master (or mistress) of ceremonies, whoever it may be, should ensure that everybody present knows exactly what the novels are about and who the authors are, while conveying drama and suspense. This is not a school prizegiving ceremony for grown-ups, after all, but a celebration of a living literature, the best novel that has been published in English that year throughout the

Commonwealth, Ireland and South Africa. It is quite possible to maintain a proper sense of occasion while deploying showbiz techniques.

One more — I hope constructive — criticism. There is a depressing emphasis on the onerous task faced by the judges. The chairman of the judges always grumbles about the number of novels the jury has had to read; this year, it was 141, as we were told more than once. Yes, it does seem a lot — though, as Ruth Rendell acknowledged, not so very many in comparison to the 70,000 titles published annually.

It is also worth remembering that what seems to us a heavy burden of reading would not have impressed our ancestors. According to Roy

Jenkins's *Gladstone* (Macmillan, £20), the Grand Old Man read (and annotated) 20,000 books in his long life, which means that he read rather more books than a Booker judge every single year — while spending 63 years in the Commons, 27 of them in office and 12 as Prime Minister. Most of Gladstone's books, of course, were not novels, but heavyweight volumes of theology and history, many of them in Greek, Latin, German, Italian or French. Anyone who doubts his erudition may examine them at St Deiniol's, Gladstone's residential library at Hawarden. Gladstone was unique; but reading for pleasure is not. Nor should judging the Booker be presented as though it were like passing an examination. It is a privilege, which hardly anybody turns down. So let us have no more bleating from the lucky devils who are asked.

Gerald Kaufman on a comprehensive but portable opera guide; Lloyd Webber's diminishing returns; Pratchett hits the right notes

## Opera in a pocket

PRICES of opera programmes are exorbitant: £4 a go at Covent Garden, for example. This guide will pay for itself after only a few outings and is, moreover, light and slim enough to carry about.

It is, furthermore, remarkably comprehensive. While no substitute for the four-volume *Grove Dictionary of Opera*, nor seeking to usurp its plumper (and much more expensive) elder sister, *The Viking Opera Guide*, it is more up-to-date than either, offers exemplary coverage of 20th-century operas and operetta and pays suitable homage to eight composers of Broadway musicals (excelling both *Grove* and *Viking* by including Sondheim's latest, *Pastor*, a superbly intense work yet to reach Britain).

A British composer of musicals is also discussed, though it is questionable whether Andrew Lloyd Webber will welcome unreservedly a section which loftily remarks that his "work... has escaped the full-blooded approbation of the critics" and refers to "the rather coarse and dated hard-rock elements of *Jesus Christ Superstar*" and "the shallowness of the sung characters" and "generally wooden nature of the composition" of *The Phantom of the Opera*.

The criterion for any guide is whether it can be read not only for reference but for entertainment, and Amanda Holden and her contributors pass this test with first-class

■ THE PENGUIN OPERA GUIDE Edited by Amanda Holden with Nicholas Kenyon and Stephen Walsh Viking, £20

honours. Mozart's *The Magic Flute* is lauded not only for its musical qualities but as a crime preventative ("If you listen regularly to [it], you may be less inclined to go out and mug old-age pensioners"). Harrison Birtwistle's *The Second Mrs Kong* is properly acknowledged as having been inspired by a Hollywood film, *King Kong*, while Auber's *Le Diamant* is given appropriate credit for having been, by contrast, the inspiration for a Hollywood film (a Laurel and Hardy comedy).

This *Penguin Guide* is comprehensively informative about lesser-known compositions which share origins with more famous ones: adding, for example, John Corigliano's *The Ghosts of Versailles* (Mozart, Puccini, Rossini) derived from Beaumarchais. It also gives suitable recognition to such weird works as Henze's *The English Cat*, in which nearly all the participants are indeed cats. Shostakovich's *The Nose*, whose eponymous protagonist is a perambulating proboscis, and Poulenc's *Les Mamelles de Tirésias*, irresistible nonsense featuring a soprano whose breasts float away to the sound of a valse chantée.



Hidden shallows: Sarah Brightman and Michael Crawford in Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* — hit show, but where are the tunes?

GO ANYWHERE that music is piped and you are likely to hear some half-recognised sentimental melody written by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Since 1968, when the 20-year-old Lloyd Webber and 24-year-old Tim Rice wrote *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* as a 20-minute piece for the boys of Colet Court prep school, he has created ten stage shows. In the process he has become a multimillionaire, theatre owner, impresario, art collector and a knight. He has married three times and is still only 47.

This coffee-table book, plentifully illustrated with press cuttings and photographs, tells the story but does little to explain the phenomenon. True the early shows — *Joseph*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* — written with Tim

■ THE MUSICALS OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER By Keith Richmond Virgin, £16.99

Rice, gave a new look to musicals by taking out the dialogue, so that they were through-composed, like opera. But even they demonstrated a law of diminishing returns musically, with half a dozen hit tunes in *Joseph*, four in *Superstar*, and three in *Evita*, and

## More is less when any tune will do

even there Lloyd Webber demonstrated such a debt to the music of such predecessors as Puccini, Elgar and Rachmaninov that an American critic observed that he wrote "music that gives eclecticism a bad name". In recent years things have become even worse. The last two shows, *The Phantom of the Opera* and *Sunset Boulevard*, both still packing them in the West End and on Broadway, hardly offer three good hits between

them: it is much more a matter of humming the sets and lighting effect.

The son of a distinguished organist and music college director, Lloyd Webber seems to have created less and less as the years roll by. His musicals to date have earned £1.5 billion and made him exceedingly rich. But next time you hear the Muzak, try identifying it. The odds are that the tune will be *Any Dream Will Do* from *Joseph*, *I Don't Know How To Love Him* from *Jesus Christ Superstar*, or *Don't Cry For Me, Argentina* from *Evita*, all more than 20 years old. The notes may not flow abundantly any more, but the royalties still roll in, and that, perhaps, is the problem.

DAVID FINGLETON

## Music, magic, mayhem

■ MASKERADE By Terry Pratchett Gollancz, £15.99

THE ARTS tend to flourish spectacularly but briefly on the Discworld. Terry Pratchett has already roughed up the theatre (*Wyrd Sisters*), rock (*Soul Music*) and cinema (*Moving Pictures*). In *Maskerade*, it is the turn of opera — fat sopranos, phantom and all. Pratchett has set himself a tough task since opera plots are about the only ones as absurd as his own.

So, the Lancre witches, Granny Weatherwax and Nanny Ogg, need a third to make up a real coven: "when shall we two meet again" just does not have the right ring. Accompanied by Nanny's cat Greebo, they set off to recruit Agnes Nitt. But Agnes, a large girl but "with a lovely personality", has her heart set on becoming a singer (if possible under the "thin" name of Ferdia X). Meanwhile, people are being murdered at Mr Bucken's opera house.

Well, it is not *La Wally*, but after Pratchett has botched on the Discworld accessories — magic, mayhem and Death (suffering from repetitive strain injury) — the result is everything we have come to expect. So is the humour: pretension is bludgeoned with bathos, conventional wisdom is turned on its head, and almost nobody has grasped the concept of metaphor. *Discworld* fans will not be disappointed with this latest biannual fix.

Perhaps the jokes are less abundant, the style a mite predictable — but 18 novels into this bestselling series, criticism is redundant. With Pratchett on his list, Gollancz can carry on enjoying "the dream of all those who publish books, which was to have so much gold in your pockets that you would have to employ two people just to hold your trousers up".

PETER INGHAM  
\*and there are too few footnotes.

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THIS is the fourth book in A. N. Wilson's Lampitt Papers series but is so complete and satisfying in itself that new readers may start here without feeling clueless.

The story skeeters between the late 1960s and AD 2000, mostly narrated by the actor and writer Julian Ramsay. In the first year of the new century, at the age of 65, he is starting in a one-man show in New York, playing James Penworth Lampitt, the campy raconteur who is the subject

## Morality play

■ HEARING VOICES By A. N. Wilson Sinclair-Stevenson, £14.99

of biographies by Ramsay himself and by his sinister rival, Raphael Hunter.

In spite of the scampy narrative and knockabout humour, *Hearing Voices* is far more serious than the

rompish comedy it sometimes pretends to be: it is very much concerned with the ways of God as perceived by the various characters in the book, some of whom are mouthpieces for a particular religious point of view.

Absorbed and delighted by the aspects of the novel that deal with literary skuldugg-

ery and various engaging love affairs, and the deft symmetry of Wilson's plotting, it is only when you have finished the book that you realise that you have undergone a crash course in moral philosophy without even noticing.

PENNY PERRICK  
● See Paperbacks, right

PETER INGHAM  
\*and there are too few footnotes.

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# BOOKS

15

Pomp and circumstance — where does the Royal Family fit in modern Britain?

## Throne open to debate



Wilson: skilfully catches the atmosphere of an era

**THE LAMPITT PAPERS**  
By A. N. Wilson  
Mandarin, £8.99

HERE in one volume are the first three books chronicling the life of Julian Ramsay, a failed writer who spent an undistinguished quarter century as a voice in an Archers-type radio series.

Orphaned by the Blitz, he goes to live in the country with his repressed aunt, clever, lumpy cousin Felicity and his uncle the vicar. All their conversations revolve around the Lampitts, the local aristocrats. At his horrendous prep school he makes the first of the network of acquaintances who will recur throughout his life, including the amusing Darnley, one day to edit a satirical magazine, and Raphael Hunter.

Hunter establishes his reputation with a scurrilous biography of the literary Lampitt, Jimbo, supposedly based on the Lampitt papers, to which he manages to retain sole access even when they are sold abroad. Later, after wrecking Julian's fleetingly happy marriage, he wins a libel action against the eccentric philosopher, Albin Pugh, one of Darnley's writers, who accuses him of Jimbo's murder.

Wilson skilfully deploys his gallery of slight caricatures to catch the atmosphere of an era, whether it is the austere 1930s, or the bright, hectic 1960s, and captures the disillusion of a character frustrated by his own lack of talent, both for artistic endeavour and human relationships.

THE MONARCHY is the hot subject for the 1990s. Vernon Bogdanor and Frank Prochaska have both produced important contributions to the debate.

Bogdanor, Reader in Government at the University of Oxford, has written the essential handbook for understanding the history and intricate machinery of constitutional monarchy in Britain. His theme is the evolution of the authority of the monarchy from power to influence, from head of government to head of the nation as well as head of state. He deals with the controversial and often ill-defined operation of the prerogative in the 20th century and its deployment in the face of hung parliaments and the possible introduction of proportional representation.

He examines the monarch's position in relation to the Commonwealth and to the established Church of England and the Church of Scotland, concluding that if disestablishment were to come, a secular monarchy might benefit by being more in tune with the spirit of the age.

He is an advocate of the independence of the monarchy from the increasing tendency of Parliament to exert financial control over its operations. "The danger," he writes, "is that the control which the political parties have established over so many facets of British life would serve to limit the monarchy so that it became a mere cipher."

He sees the non-partisan character of the monarchy as its major justification, placing the position of head of state outside the arena of political competition: "It alone can represent the whole nation in an emotionally satisfying way; it alone is in a position to interpret the nation to itself." In an age when politicians are held in increasing disregard, an apolitical head of state is of crucial importance. The era of the "magical monarchy" ended with the age of deference; its future lies in a greater involvement with society, the "welfare conception" of the monarchy.

The concept of a "welfare monarchy" is the theme of Prochaska's fascinating and important book. Like Bogdanor, he is not a fan of big

**THE MONARCHY AND THE CONSTITUTION**  
By Vernon Bogdanor  
Clarendon Press, £19.99

**ROYAL BOUNTY: The Making of a Welfare Monarchy**  
By Frank Prochaska  
Yale University Press, £19.95

government and sees the monarchy's role as being a crucial buffer between state and society. Ranging back over the struggle between voluntary and collectivist views of welfare and society which ended in apparent victory for the latter with the introduction of the welfare state in 1945, he highlights the contribution of the Royal Family to the provision of welfare. The benevolent altruism of George III and Queen Charlotte and the huge expansion of the voluntary sector in social welfare under Victoria developed in the first two decades of the 20th century into a deliberate policy by the Palace to put the monarchy in touch with the people over the heads of socialist politicians.

AFTER the Second World War, the Palace advisers concentrated on the political role, considering the battle for voluntarism lost — mistakenly, in Prochaska's view. Today, the cracks in the welfare monolith are apparent to all, leaving an important role for the voluntary sector. The monarchy can play a leading part in encouraging citizens' contributions to welfare.

The Prince of Wales's advisers have realised this, although, Prochaska points out, they are ignorant of the past in regarding the Prince as a pioneer in this respect. The Duke of Edinburgh has always been a proponent of self-help. The Princess of Wales finds charity work therapeutic. The Duchess of York redemptive. Whatever the motive, philanthropy brings the Royal Family conspicuously in touch with the people, doing good and being seen to do so. Prochaska sees voluntary action as essential to democracy and civil society in the face of apathy and bureaucracy: it is a field in which the Royal Family is ideally placed to take the lead.

SARAH BRADFORD



At 95, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is "the last symbol of a secure monarchy"

## Our Teflon granny

**PENELOPE MORTIMER**  
intended only to add an updated postscript to her sparky and refreshingly sceptical 1986 biography of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

But she found herself rewriting almost the entire book — proof, as Mortimer readily admits, that authors should never reread their own works.

This recasting of a perfectly good original is an exercise in frustration. For all that has happened to the Royal Family in the past decade, most of it bad, Mortimer can unearth virtually no fresh evidence to fuel her suspicion that the elder Queen Elizabeth not only detested Wallis Simpson when the two chafed-and-cheese women encountered each other in the pre-abdication months of 1936, but conducted a lifetime vendetta against her.

Would that your average

**QUEEN MOTHER: An Alternative Portrait of Her Life and Times**  
By Penelope Mortimer  
Andre Deutsch, £9.99

tabloid royal hack could put his lack of facts with such neat honesty as Mortimer: "Until the present heir to the throne made the mistake of not getting on with his wife, David Windsor and Hamlet were the two princes in history to provide topics of inexhaustible speculation."

The speculation continues. Anyone attempting to analyse the life of the Queen Mother, the Garbo of Windsor, is faced with the problem that the consummate actress has not given a single interview since a *Daily Sketch* interview had ten unproductive minutes with her on her engagement in 1923.

Mortimer concludes that

that is just as an adoring nation wants it. "Who is the adulation actually for? The shrewd, fairly intelligent upper-class girl who happened to marry a king, or an image created by people's longing for an inaccessible sweetheart, a Queen Mother of their own?" Mortimer supplies the inevitable answer: "It is almost universally believed that the Queen Mother is invaluable as the last symbol of a secure monarchy and should therefore enjoy its privileges."

One of those privileges is patently a private life that remains secret. One day we shall know more but sadly, despite the best efforts of the entertainingly perceptive Mortimer, whose portrait is "all one of the sharpest we have," that day is not yet.

ALAN HAMILTON

**LUD HEAT and SUICIDE BRIDGE**  
By Iain Sinclair  
Vintage, £5.99

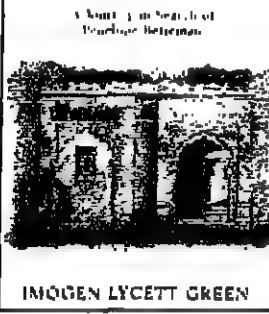
LIKE his friend Peter Ackroyd, Sinclair is a visionary for whom the past always interacts with the present in mysterious ways. *Lud Heat*, generally considered to be the inspiration for Ackroyd's *Hawthorne*, explores the strange history of the eight East London churches of the architect Nicholas Hawksmoor, and how they seem to be connected by a network of ley lines.

*Suicide Bridge* is a meditation on the nature of myth, with digressions on the Moors murders and the Kray twins.

**GRANDMOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS**  
A Journey in Search of Penelope Betjeman  
By Imogen Lycett Green  
Pan, £5.99

PENELOPE BETJEMAN, nee Chetwode, wife of the poet, arrived in India in 1928 as the beautiful daughter of the Indian Army's C-in-C. She very quickly "went bazaar" — ie, made friends with Indians. India became her second home, and she died leading a party of tourists to the Himalayas at the age of 76. In this touching and amusing travelogue her granddaughter retraces her last journey. It is an affectionate but unsentimental picture both of modern India

**GRANDMOTHER'S FOOTSTEPS**  
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IMMOGEN LYCETT GREEN

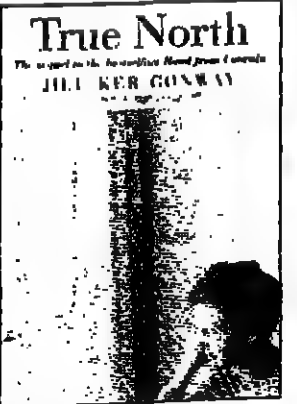
and of Penelope — a spiritual and earthy eccentric who believed that "the secret of happiness is to know your own limitations", though she seems to have had remarkably few herself.

**TALES OF THE NEW BABYLON**  
By Rupert Christiansen  
Minerva, £7.99

THE Franco-Prussian war, the siege of Paris and the fall of Emperor Louis-Napoleon form the backdrop to this vivid, expansive history of a city in extremis. These were the years of revolution and creation, of Manet, Degas and Flaubert, but it was also the era of suffering and starvation. This study fascinates because Christiansen writes with the same enthusiasm and perspicacity about the lives of ordinary Parisians as he does about the great events of the day.

**THE HEART IN EXILE**  
By Rodney Garland  
Millions Books, £8.50

WRITTEN in 1953, before the Wolfenden report, this courageously open novel explores the psychology of homosexuality through the eyes of a distinguished gay psychiatrist, Tony Page, who is determined to find out why his one-time lover, Julian Leclerc, has committed suicide. As Page slowly discovers, his life had become intolerably complicated, partly by the return of a former lover, mainly by the hostility of the "normal" world. A fascinating and impassioned plea for tolerance.



TRUE NORTH

**TRUE NORTH**  
By Jill Ker Conway  
Vintage, £6.99

THIS memoir tracks the author's journey from difficult Australian roots. In a culture hostile to bluestockings, she rose to a distinguished career in North American academe, culminating in her appointment as President of the prestigious Smith College. Education at Ivy League universities, in the early 1960s, thesis with her scholar husband at the University of Toronto in the 1970s gave her the lasting joy of intellectual life in a more supportive climate. A pioneering historian and astute administrator, she shows just how far commitment may take an educated woman.

Contributors: Fiona Hook, Hazel Leslie, Jason Cowley, Nicki Household, Alison Burns



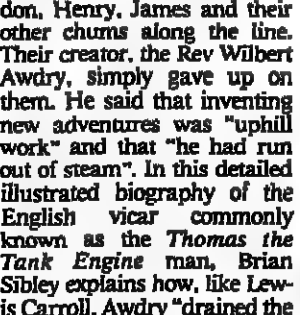
THE PEREZ FAMILY

**THE PEREZ FAMILY**  
By Christine Bell  
Virago £6.99

JUAN PEREZ spent 20 years as a political prisoner in Cuba, dreaming of the day when he would be reunited with the family he sent to America. On the boat to Miami he meets the redoubtable Dottie, someone to whom America means John Wayne, blue jeans and unlimited nail varnish, and once in the refugee camp they begin to collect a stand-in family of Perezes — senile Papa and hoodlum Felipe — to improve their chances of finding a sponsor. Meanwhile Juan searches desperately for his wife, not realising that he is totally unrecognisable. A comic and touching tale with a happy ending.

## Thomas runs out of puff

**THE THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE MAN**  
By Brian Sibley  
Heinemann, £19.99



Thomas "uphill work"

AFTER 26 years of service, something very disagreeable happened to Thomas, Gordon, Henry, James and their other chums along the line. Their creator, the Rev Wilbert Awdry, simply gave up on them. He said that inventing new adventures was "uphill work" and that "he had run out of steam". In this detailed illustrated biography of the English vicar commonly known as the *Thomas the Tank Engine* man, Brian Sibley explains how, like Lewis Carroll, Awdry "drained the wells of fancy dry".

The popularity of the world-famous railway series with Thomas in the starring role, surprised Awdry as much as anyone. True, his own children had always enjoyed them, but the fact that successive generations of children from 1945 onwards who have rarely seen a steam engine have continued to enjoy them is

something which escapes analysis. Sibley cites the romance of steam and Awdry's passion for technical detail. It also seems likely that Awdry's passion for his subject matter transmitted itself into the anthropomorphism which, although sometimes sneered at,

has a powerful attraction for children.

Born into the clergy, Awdry grew up with a model railway in his garden. But apart from the moment of desperation when he was fired from his parish in the Second World War for being a pacifist, his work as a clergyman always came first. With pre-nuptial couples, he tried to be a realist: "So often they had the idea that everything was going to be ooh-aah-cum-spill all the time. Of course, it never is."

His writing for children continued to take place in a bright, clean, unvarnished world set somewhere in the 1950s. "Happy is the man," he once said, "who has a private world of his own." At 84, he still inhabits it, but by the 1960s, the task-like prose was beginning to show the strain. By 1973, the barrel was dry.

MAUREEN OWEN

Thomas Keneally toyed with priesthood in adolescence

## A brush with the cloth

**HOMEBUSH BOY: A MEMOIR**  
By Thomas Keneally  
Hodder & Stoughton, £14.99

stretched ability. A poet, too — time would tell. And there was always Bernadette.

Keneally is particularly good on the parental relationships. He recalls his father, a carpenter manque, making him a wooden schoolbag, "metal clips at every corner and an accurately fitted lock". After three years, it was re-

duced to splinters by a reversing No 414 bus. "That," remarks Keneally, "was like the close of childhood."

Young Keneally's canter into manhood was also enhanced by Bernadette. Imagine the shock when the love of your life announces that she intends to become a nun. Young Tom's solution was to go one better: he would follow the advice of those Christian Brothers and become a priest.

We know, of course, that Keneally actually became a writer. And just how that happened will, I trust, be the sequel. In the meantime, we have in *Homebush Boy* Keneally's disarming lightness of touch that reveals self-analysis of a high order.

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## OPERA

John Higgins

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(3 CDs)\*

has the bonus of an all-German cast. Rudolf Schock may not be the most spiritual of Lohengrins but he always sounds like a good man to be at one's side in a rumble. EMI has other top-class men in Gottlob Frick's Henry and Josef Metternich's Telramund. But the women are dismal: Maud Cunitz (from the Bavarian State Opera) is a pallid Elsa and Maragrete Klose sounds well past her best as Ortrud. Schüchter is decent rather than front rank as a conductor. The sound, in mono, is adequate.

## BAROQUE

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L'Oiseau-Lyre 444 336-2\*\*\*  
AS PURCELL'S year draws to a close, the shadowy figures of his immediate predecessors, Matthew Locke, Giovanni Battista Draghi and Thomas Shadwell, continue to hover over the celebrations with their own bucolic dances and drunken choruses. Few discs this year have given such vivid context to Purcell's English theatre as this first ever recording of Matthew Locke's 1675 *Psyche*, a still sadly neglected landmark in English operatic history.

Philip Pickett has edited Locke's own music and Peter Holman has reconstructed Draghi's keyboard dances into ensemble pieces to replace his complementary instrumental numbers, which are now lost. There are solemn sackbuts for Apollo's rites, silvery, beautifully articulated strings for the Olympian scene, and the growling of regal and great bass viol for assorted Furies and Devils. Michael George doubles as Pan and Pluto; Catherine Bott as Proserpine and a nicely flighty Venus.

Best of all, though, are cameos such as the imaginatively realised and gleefully executed *Dance of Cyclops*, "forging great vases of silver" in the golden palace of Cupid; the soft breath of theobos which accompanies the "invisible singers"; and the frolics of Paul Agnew's Vulcan with his boozey mechanicals, as the English language flexes its muscle to bend its own inflections to French and Italian cadence.

**ORCHESTRAL**  
Barry Millington

**TCHAIKOVSKY/ GLAZUNOV**  
Violin Concertos  
Vengerov/Berlin  
Philharmonic Orchestra/  
Abbado  
Teldec 4509-90881-2\*\*\*  
□ **TCHAIKOVSKY/ SIBELIUS**  
Violin Concertos  
Josefowicz/ASMF/Marriner  
Philips 446-131-2\*\*\*

RECORDINGS of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto are not exactly in short supply; among the dozens currently on offer, there is something for all

**NEW ON VIDEO: Swashbuckling in Scotland; chariot racing in ancient Rome; the birth of Beatlemania**

## ROB ROY

MGM/UA, 15, 1995

LIAM NEESON pounds the heather with sturdy legs in this ambitious but fusty epic about the 18th-century Scottish cattle drover who fights for his rights against the English aristocrats. There are sword fights to stir the blood and a juicy villain in Tim Roth's Cunningham. But you can overdose on green, rugged scenery and windy speeches about honour. Directed by Michael Caton-Jones. Available to rent.

## BEN HUR

MGM/UA, PG, 1959

AT THE time, this edition of Lew Wallace's door-stop novel set in Christ's time was the world's most expensive film, but MGM still came out laughing, with 11 Oscars. Director William Wyler pursues the life of the Jew Ben Hur (Charlton Heston) with a stately tread, but the sea battles and chariot race have real gusto. And Miklós Rózsa's music is a concert and a half. This video release also contains the original trailer and a "making of" documentary.

## THE BLOB

4 Front, 15, 1958

SMALL-TOWN teenagers face a unique peril from the special-effects team, a glistening lump of jelly that devours every human it meets. A cult classic: the direction is bad and the material corny, but touches in the script and Steve McQueen's performance indicate that some people, at least, were trying hard. Unusually for low-grade science-fiction, this was filmed in colour: useful for catching the blob's changing hues as it feasts on human flesh.

## GUARDING TESS

Columbia TriStar, PG, 1994

TESS needs guarding because she is the widow of an American president; she is also Shirley MacLaine. The Secret Service agent with the job is Nicolas Cage, who wishes he were out in the field dodging bullets, not bickering over a breakfast tray. Hugh Wilson's comedy glides along pleasantly until the plot turns melodramatic. We may laugh at



Windswept but long-winded: Liam Neeson strides the heather as the 18th-century Scottish hero in Michael Caton-Jones's ambitious *Rob Roy*

Tess and her guardian looked in their love-hate embrace; crying when Tess is kidnapped is a different matter. Available to rent.

## A HARD DAY'S NIGHT

VCI, U, 1964

THE BEATLES' first feature has kept its freshness after 30 years, thanks partly to the lads themselves, and to writer Alun Owen's sharp

observations about showbiz life and sudden fame. Director Richard Lester's jumping-jack cutting and zany humour spread like wildfire through British cinema in the 1960s, not always to its advantage; but here his high jinks are in perfect synch with the performers. The video also contains Pathe News footage of Beatlemania, the trailer for a 1982 American reissue, and an interview

with Lester. The second Beatles film, *Help!*, is also available with similar attractions, along with a separate documentary, *The Making of A Hard Day's Night*.

## ODETTE

Lumiere, PG, 1950

AFTER smiling and dancing through *Maytime in Mayfair*, Anna Neagle surprised audiences with

her stark portrayal of this real-life secret agent of the Second World War who proved impervious to every Gestapo torture and answered all questions with "I have nothing to say". Herbert Wilcox directs with dogged sincerity, though the absence of romantic gloss shows up the cracks in his cinematic style.

GEOFF BROWN

## POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

## THE ROLLING STONES

Stripped

Virgin 41040\*\*\*

MICK JAGGER is forever railing against the notion that the Rolling Stones have become part of the rock 'n' roll heritage industry. But the hard fact is that of the 14 tracks on *Stripped*, only one, *Slipping Away*, was written after 1973.

That said, the album, which explores the rootsier side of the band's repertoire, does sound remarkably vibrant, and the idea of a comparatively simple, acoustically-oriented set fits in perfectly with the mood of the post-*Unplugged* 1990s. Recorded either live or "as live" at several small venues over the course of the group's recent world tour, it boasts sparkling performances of classics such as *Street Fighting Man*, *Wild Horses*, *Let It Bleed* and *Angie*, as well as neglected gems including *Shine a Light*, *I'm Free* and *Sweet Virginia*.

Like the group, the rinsed out blonde in *The Spider and the Fly* has put on a few years (no longer "coming on fiery") and looking about 30, she is now "common, shifty" and closer to 50, but the music still exerts a timeless appeal. Wouldn't it be great if

Jagger and Keith Richards could now start writing new songs that actually bettered these ancient favourites?

David Sinclair

## PURESENCE

Fire

Island 854 449\*\*\*

A MANCHESTER band with a difference, Puresence distill the kind of dislocated, mid-night-black moods associated with the trip-hop brigade and harness them to a big, alternative rock-band sound.

James Mudriczki has an unusually high voice, sounding a tad like Feargal Sharkey on *Fire* but even more like Beth Gibbons of Portishead on the B-side, *You're Only Trying to Twist My Arm*.

The lyrics coil up into brooding, existential circles, while the guitars alternate between eerie calm and sepulchral blitzes of white noise. The clunky bass lines of Kevin Matthews, in particular, recall the spirit of Mancunian pioneers Joy Division, but the overall concoction is something altogether new.

The band will release their debut album in the New Year. *Fire* is an elegant taster.

\* Worth hearing

\*\* Worth considering

\*\*\* Worth buying

## JAZZ

Clive Davis

## TONY BENNETT

Here's to the Ladies

Columbia CSK 7412\*\*\*

THE GREAT Tony Bennett comeback shows no sign of slowing down just yet. Last year's MTV *Unplugged* album fell short of his best work but picked up a Grammy Award anyway, presumably as belated recognition of his long quest to uphold the achievements of the classic American songwriters.

In an era of unabashed mediocrity, it seems that Bennett can sneeze and still win a standing ovation. *Here's to the Ladies*, on the other hand, is the genuine article, a masterful survey of the art of song, in honour of Billie Holiday, Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, Judy Garland and many others besides.

When Bennett essayed a similar tribute to Sinatra a few years ago, on the collection *Perfectly Frank*, the results proved a little too contrived. This time his performance is far more relaxed and authoritative; no longer straining for



Bennett: authoritative

before the band slips into a distinctive mid-tempo swing arrangement.

Throughout, Holman's settings provide a velvet counterpoint to the sandpaper edge that has crept into Bennett's voice with the passing years. Never fear, the faithful Ralph Sharon Trio remains on hand too, most notably on a near-definitive reading of *God Bless the Child*.



Abbado: an advantage

Claudio Abbado and the Berlin Philharmonic as accompanists, while Josefowicz plays with Neville Marriner, who has taken a keen interest in her career over a period of some five years. As for the Tchaikovsky, there is not a great deal to choose: both players demonstrate the highest technical skills, as well as supreme expressivity. Each has his or her own way of

handling the contemplative passages, such as the recitative-like introduction to the first movement's main subject, or the more restrained second subject. Josefowicz shows the greater contrast here.

Josefowicz is marginally the more dynamic, more animated performer. Vengerov is determined not to rush his fences and takes everything in his stride. It is noteworthy, in this context, that Vengerov observes the marking "slightly slower" where the going gets tough, in the virtuoso triplet section, while Josefowicz ploughs straight on, every note perfectly in place. In the *Canzonetta*, with her expressive shaping of the Slavonic tune and sense of mystery, she has the edge over Vengerov, and in the rondo finale, too, she has a touch more temperament.

Abbado's Berliners, as always, are in a class of their own: just listen to the way the violins ease themselves into the first note of the concerto. But the Academy of St Martin in the Fields also plays very creditably, and Marriner provides Josefowicz with a lively accompaniment responsive to her spirited reading.

Their Sibelius, however — full-blooded, almost demonic and occasionally overblown — is less successful. By chance, Cho-Liang Lin's masterly account, rapt and introspective, has reappeared in a new

compilation on Sony (SXX 64578), called *Salonen conducts Sibelius*. Vengerov's coupling is a stylish, assured performance of the Glazunov's A Minor Concerto.

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COLLECT THREE CDS WITH THE TIMES: A COMPILATION OF 10 ALBUMS OF THE YEAR; HANDEL: THE RPO PLAYS HITS OF PINK FLOYD

# Complimentary CDs for Christmas

Starting today, and continuing next week, *The Times* is offering readers the opportunity to collect three complimentary CDs of great music on top-quality record labels. All three would make ideal Christmas gifts for any member of the family.

Today's CD offers readers a compilation of one track from each of the ten albums shortlisted for the 1995 Mercury Music Prize. The sampler compilation (details of how to get it, right) provides a fascinating snapshot of a year when a vigorous new breed of acts flourished both artistically and commercially.

David Sinclair, chief Rock critic of *The Times* writes of the CD and the awards: "It has been a landmark year for British music, and the shortlist was without doubt the strongest since the competition began. Oasis are represented on the Mercury album by their definitive song, *Live Forever*, an anthem that perfectly captures the buoyant mood of recent times. Suddenly, anything was possible, and among the small army of young, sparky groups which stormed the chart barricades in the wake of the Mancunian mop tops were Supergrass and Elastica, both of whom sailed to No.1 with their exceptional debut albums.

But when the judges came to choose the winner of the prize our attention was claimed by a more innovative strand of music. The final discussions focused on three acts, all from the South West of England, and all boasting a strong female voice. They were PJ Harvey, rep- resented on the CD by the typically arch yet



Oasis feature on our first CD with their song, *Live Forever* which stormed the charts

aching lament, C'Mon Billy. Tricky, whose vocal-ist partner, Martine, provides the perfect foil for the Bristolian producer/rapper's mindbending sounds and visions; and Portishead, whose spectral album, *Dummy*, remains the perfect expression of the British trance/dance phenomenon trip hop. After much impassioned debate, *Dummy* narrowly emerged as the winner.

However, the beauty of the Mercury Music Prize is that it exists to celebrate all areas of British and Irish music, not just the most trend-setting or obviously popular acts of the moment. What a pleasure, then, to be able to recognise a veteran such as Van Morrison, not

for a "lifetime's achievement" but simply for releasing one of the year's best albums. With its marvellous harmonies, chipper horn arrangements and heartwarming lyric, the title track of *Days Like This* is Celtic soul at its finest. Pure magic.

Another aim of the Mercury Music Prize is to guide listeners to excellent music from genres they might not otherwise consider listening to. Just to have on the same album an excerpt from Scottish composer James MacMillan's epic choral work, *Seven Last Words From The Cross*, rubbing shoulders with *Original* by club culture/dance specialists Leftfield is an

enlightenment in itself.

But for me, the great discovery this year was trumpeter Guy Barker's *Into The Blue*, a tremendously entertaining and accessible jazz album which has alerted me to a taste for traditionally-styled, melodic pop I didn't know I had. The excerpt selected from *Oh Mr Rex* with its swinging, marching band beat has to be one of the most infectious, toe-tapping horn riffs ever.

David Sinclair was one of the ten judges of the 1995 Mercury Music Prize.

## HOW TO GET YOUR CD

Simply collect two tokens from *The Times* and attach them to the coupon (right). Token 2 will appear on Monday. Complete the questionnaire and send it with a cheque or postal order for £1.98, payable to Times Newspapers, to cover the cost of postage, packaging and distribution. Please allow 28 days for delivery. The offer is subject to availability.

Next week we will publish details of our second free CD, Handel — Messiah Highlights featuring London Musici and Chamber Choir. Information about the third CD, The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra plays Hits of Pink Floyd will appear later in the week.

Mercury has a new service, Mercury SmartCall, designed for people who make frequent UK long distance and international calls from home. Annual membership costs £23.52 (inc Vat). For more information: FreeCall 0500 200 909.

## MERCURY CD APPLICATION FORM

Enclose 2 tokens from *The Times* and a cheque/PO for £1.98 payable to The Times FT507. Send to: The Times CD, PO Box 510, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SSM 7 80S. Closing date December 15, 1995

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MEET SOMEONE THE

Source 1995 Nov-Dec







BRITAIN: A mushroom hunt in Sussex; on the trail of the resting place of Pocahontas in Kent

## Beware of the fungi to die for

“E at that,” said the stern Germanic voice, “and you could die.” It was a piece of advice I was minded not to ignore. Brigitta Tee knows a great deal about things lurking in the woods which are likely to bring you to an untimely end.

Mrs Tee, a self-taught mycologist (expert on fungi), was, with her husband John, conducting my wife and me on a mushroom hunt in the woods of West Sussex.

We were fellow guests at the Angel Hotel in Midhurst, and the deadly little brown number in question was a Death Cap (*Amanita phalloides*), almost identical to the untrained eye, to the other perfect.

ly palatable specimens which would be prepared in the hotel kitchen before the day was out. The couple are the directors of Mrs Tee's Wild Mushrooms, a company which sprang from her interest in the colourful fungi she and her children saw growing near their home in the New Forest. “There were loads and loads of them,” she said, “and at that time nobody was picking them. I knew that many were edible because I had seen them for sale in food stores in Berlin [she is a native of southern Germany].”

There followed a display of entrepreneurship which would bring a glow to Sir John Harvey-Jones. Within weeks she had won orders for New Forest mushrooms from half a dozen of London's leading

restaurants and now, three years later, the company is on course for a turnover of £300,000 next year.

Our early morning fungi hunt was the high point of a sybaritic weekend at the Angel, a former coaching inn, much of it dating from the 15th century. Peter Crawford-Rolt bought it three and a half years ago from the brewers George Gale, of Horndean, and after six months of frenzied restoration (involving in

part the conversion of the locally famous Midhurst Steam Brewery) reopened it as a country hotel.

The building is large — there are 21 bedrooms, with more planned — and falls into distinct eras. The street

frontage is Georgian, the rest an unlikely mélange of Tudor, Elizabethan and Regency.

Outside are lawns, a kitchen garden and newly-laid flowerbeds, giving onto open countryside and a view of the romantic golden ruins of Cowdray House. Close by is Cowdray Park, playground of the polo fraternity, which uses the Angel as a local during the summer.

Perhaps it is the proximity of such serious wealth which encourages a half pretentiousness among some of the Angel's diners. During dinner a group of middle-aged yachtsmen at an adjacent table indulged in a bout of competitive braying about the size of their spinners, while two tables away a young man held long, intense conversations on



David Blundell gets advice on how to identify edible mushrooms from Brigitta Tee

his mobile phone through three courses. Perhaps the news that Eighties exhibitionism is over has not yet reached this corner of Sussex.

None of this, however, detracts from the quality of the food. This is serious cooking and nothing has been allowed to slip since Jonathan Meades named it as one of his favourite restaurants in *The Times*.

I chose coarse duck sausage with pink peppercorns, and brochette of monkfish with scallops and black-eyed beans followed by a selection of French and English cheeses.

Interesting discoveries included Gospel Green, a local handmade Cheddar-Cheshire cross and Exmoor Blue, a full-

fat creamy cheese made from the milk of Jersey cows.

Service is relaxed and unobtrusive. Meals and drinks arrive on time and the telephone in reception never rings more than twice.

Midhurst is a prime location for touring the South Downs. As well as the esoteric delights of polo, a sporting enthusiast will find Goodwood just down the road and a choice of golf courses. The area is positively infested with museums, fine houses and historic monuments — certainly more than you could take in in a single weekend. Do not miss Uppark, the National Trust's restored treasure, Petworth House and park and Arundel

Castle. And there is mushroom collecting. The redoubtable

Mrs Tee may not always be on hand to tell you the difference between a Death Cap, a Shaggy Ink Cap and a Jew's Ear, but a suitable, though less entertaining substitute, would be a copy of *Mushrooms and other fungi of Great Britain and Europe*, by Roger Phillips (Pan, £13.99).

### DAVID BLUNDELL

● The author was a guest of the Angel Hotel, North Street, Midhurst, West Sussex GU20 9DN (01730 812421; fax 01730 815928). Rooms from £65 to £130, all with bathroom and TV. Lunch and dinner every day. Brasserie £45, restaurant £50 plus.

● Mrs Tee's Wild Mushrooms, Gorse Meadow, Sway Road, Lymington, Hants SO41 8LR. For information on weekend seminars on the fungi of Britain call 01590 673354; fax 01590 673335.

## Dose of Dickens and Disney

GRAVESEND is not on many tourist routes, except for lovers of Charles Dickens or General Gordon. But a Hollywood blockbuster has suddenly changed all that. For here is the final resting place of Pocahontas — the newly Disneyfied “Red Indian” princess, whose story is currently Britain's number one box-office film attraction.

The number of visitors to the Kent town has rocketed by 300 per cent in the past two months. Half the shops in the town appear to be selling Pocahontas products. You can even buy a Pocahontas advent calendar in Woolworth's.

The daughter of an Indian chieftain, she was born 400 years ago and is famous for befriending the first English settlers and saving their leader, John Smith, from being executed by her father. The princess went on to marry another settler before sailing to England where she was presented to James I. But she fell ill on her voyage home, was taken ashore at Gravesend and died aged 22 in 1617, probably from tuberculosis.

The landing stage where she was brought ashore is still there, opposite the Three Daws, a 500-year-old inn once used by smugglers and men escaping the press gang.

But any Pocahontas pilgrimage should start at St George's Church, a handsome structure in the town centre. In the adjoining Pocahontas Gardens stands a statue of the princess, presented by the governor of Virginia in 1858. The church's two memorial windows featuring the princess were donated by the grandly named Society of Colonial Dames of America in 1914. Disney is to give £9,000 towards floodlighting the church.

Traditionally, Pocahontas was mother of her “country”, a symbol of Anglo-American friendship and the first native American to be voluntarily baptised, though she was

being held hostage by colonialists at the time.

More recently, she has become a symbol of the burgeoning Native American movement, which has demanded that her bones be returned to her homeland. The problem is, nobody knows exactly where she is buried, although it is thought to be close to the altar.

And Gravesend's other attractions? General Gordon strengthened the New Tavern



The Pocahontas statue

Fort before going to the Sudan, and Charles Dickens wrote *Great Expectations* in Gads Hill Place, five miles away. He gave a derisive description of Gravesend, which is thinly disguised as Muggletown in *The Pickwick Papers*.

### YORK MEMBERS

● Gravesend is 50 minutes by train from Charing Cross, London. A day return costs £5.30. Further information from Gravesend tourist information centre: 01474 339600.

### EVENTS

□ Evington Park (01789 450123) in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, will be hosting a masked ball and ghost tours in their “haunted” grounds. Parrot-maid in Victorian period costume and liveried footman will serve. Full-board prices start at £175 per night for a three-night minimum over Christmas and two nights over New Year.

□ The Lancaster House Hotel (01524 844824), Lancaster, celebrates Christmas with its annual Black Pudding Hurling Competition and a six-course luncheon. Three-night packages starting on December 24 cost £269.

□ Father Christmas will be arriving in a Victorian horse-drawn carriage at Lockman Park (01225 94277), Colerne, near Bath, on Christmas Day. Tickets for the New Year's Eve Gala Ball cost £125, which includes the hire of Louis XIV costumes. Four-night breaks start at £855, based on two people sharing, including meals and entertainment.

□ The Youth Hostels Association (01727 845 047) has arranged a three-day “medieval” Christmas break at St. Briavels Castle in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire. The Norman castle comes complete with a moat, dungeons, jesters, valiant knights and fair maidens. Full board costs £100.

□ Santa Claus will be riding the Great Western Railway steam train at the Didcot Railway Centre, Oxfordshire, (01235 817200) on December 23 and 24. Price for adults and children, including a present from Santa, £5 OAPs £3.50.

□ There will be feasting and merry-making at Hampton Court Palace (0181 781 9500), December 27 to January 1. Visitors can watch spit-roasted meats being prepared in the Tudor tradition by authentically dressed cooks, who will also demonstrate Tudor sawdust and sculpture. Admission to the Palace is £7.50 (£5.60 concessions, £4.90 children).

□ The Crown in Framlingham, Suffolk, a White Hart hotel (0345 543543), is offering a Peace and Quiet Christmas break, December 24-26, with good food and fine wine and no intrusive “musk” and “jolly sing-alongs”, at £109 per person per night.

COLLECT 30 TOKENS FOR A CHANCE TO WIN £20,000 CASH FOR AN 80-DAY HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME — PLUS SAVE 10% ON ALL HOLIDAYS FEATURED

## Win a maiden voyage cruise

Today and every day until the end of December, *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* are offering readers the exclusive chance to win one of 80 holidays for two. There is also an opportunity to win £20,000 cash for an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

Our series of 80 holidays around the world includes safaris to Africa, tours to South America, India and the Far East, adventurous trips to out-of-the-way places, and luxury breaks in some of the best resorts, worth more than £150,000 in total. So far readers have won exciting holidays to Zimbabwe, Kenya and Botswana, Brazil, Chile and Belize, Sri Lanka, India and the Caribbean.

Today's prize is the first of a series of luxury cruises to Greece, Turkey, Russia, Cyprus, Egypt, Germany and Italy. They have been arranged by Swan Hellenic, who have 20 years' experience organising cruises that combine travel with an opportunity to learn more about the world's heritage.

All their cruises are accompanied by guest speakers chosen for their ability to captivate and entertain, and their expertise will help to enhance your appreciation of the sights you see.

Ashore, optional guided excursions are included in each itinerary for those who wish to pursue their interest in a subject still further.

**10 PER CENT DISCOUNTS**  
Readers can also enjoy an exclusive ten per cent discount on today's cruise with Swan Hellenic on the maiden voyage of the *Minerva* and all holidays featured next week. Brochure prices start at



Taormina, Sicily, one of the many sites you will visit accompanied by a guide

£1,670, per person, which is inclusive of flights, accommodation, meals, sightseeing excursions, on board entertainment and all tips.

The benefit of our 10 per cent exclusive discount applies to all the holidays featured during our 80-day holiday competition. Many of these discounted tours include five-star accommodation, superb meals, excursions led by qualified guides, safaris and sightseeing. There are a number of tour

operators collaborating on this Around the World adventure and to get brochures for any of the holidays featured in previous weeks, you should write to: *The Times* Brochure Service, PO Box 9, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 8QQ. Bookings should be made through Cox & Kings before February 28, 1996. All other terms and conditions relating to these holiday competitions and offers are contained in the brochures.

### HOW TO WIN £20,000

By collecting 30 of the 80 tokens which will appear every day in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until December 28, you have the chance to win £20,000 cash to spend on an 80-day holiday of a lifetime.

The winner will be given help by Cox & Kings to work out a holiday itinerary to take them to some of the places they have always dreamed of going to.

Attach your 30 differently numbered tokens to the completed entry form below and you will be entered into our prize draw. Readers may collect 60 tokens for two chances of winning.

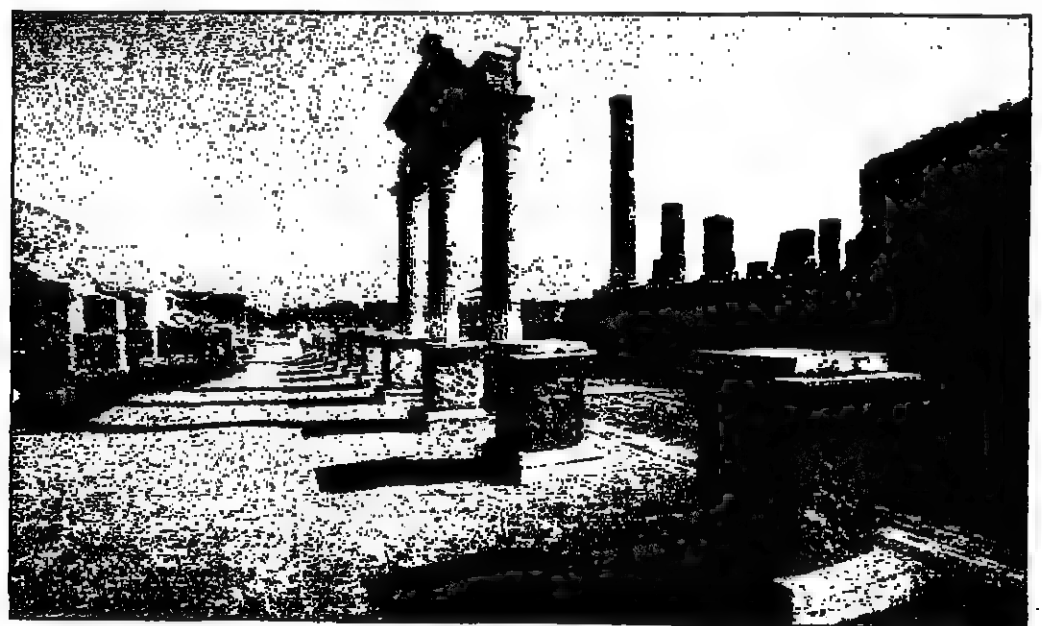
Previously published tokens may be obtained free of charge by sending a sae to:

*The Times/Sunday Times* Holiday of a Lifetime Competition, Token Request, PO Box 480, London E1 9DN. A maximum of four tokens can be supplied per application.

**SWAN HELLENIC**

**FOR YOUR 10% HOLIDAY DISCOUNT CALL FOR A BROCHURE ON: 01369 707711**

## 15-day cruise in the Aegean worth over £5,000



Pompeii, the ancient city near Vesuvius, which covered the whole city in volcanic ash in AD79

Today's prize, worth £5,620 for two people, is a 15-day cruise on the maiden voyage of the new ship, *Minerva*. The atmosphere on board is informal, meals are served from the pool-side buffet or in the dining room. The winner will have a standard cabin which all have private bathrooms. Other facilities include a swimming pool, gym, airy conservatory, smoking room and a variety of lounges.

Day 1 Fly from London Gatwick to Genoa. Embark *Minerva* and sail late evening. Day 2 Arrive in Naples for visits to Pompeii or Herculaneum. Day 3 Morning visit to Spaccanapoli, the oldest part of Naples, or visit Vesuvius. In the afternoon, sail to Capri. Day 4 Visit Taormina or Reggio Calabria to see the Riace bronzes, or join a botanical excursion. Afternoon at sea. Day 5 Arrive at Katakolo for a visit to Olympia. Day 6 From Gythion, a choice of excursions to Mistra or Sparta. Day 7 At Heraklion, visit Knossos and the archaeolog-

ical museum or take a botanical tour. Day 8 Morning walk through the Crusader town of Rhodes. Afternoon at sea. Day 9 Excursions to some of Ionia's finest sites including Ephesus, Seljuk and Claros. Day 10 At Didiki go to Pergamon to see the Asclepion. Day 11 Morning on the island of Delos and afternoon cruising across the Aegean Sea. Day 12 From Piraeus, visit the Acropolis and the National Museum in Athens. Excursions to Mycenae and Epidaurus and sail through the

Corinth Canal. Day 13 From Itea take an excursion to either Delphi or Oisios Loukas. Day 14 At sea. Day 15 A spectacular morning approach into Venice for a guided walk before returning to London by air.

**DATES OF DEPARTURE:**  
April 29 - May 13, 1996. Price, £2,520, a saving of £261 per person, includes flights, 14-nights twinshare accommodation, transfers, sightseeing, all meals, plus guest speakers and a botanist to lead the on shore excursions.

### HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win today's prize of a holiday on the maiden voyage of the *Minerva*, phone your answers to the two questions below on our competition hotline: 0891 40 50 34 before midnight tonight. Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.

The winner will be selected at random from all correct entries received. Normal *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

### THE QUESTIONS

1. What is the oldest part of Naples called?
2. Where is known as the Crusader town?

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2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week?

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IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW: WIN A CRUISE TO RUSSIA



# TRAVEL

19

SKIING: An ageing failed skier finds a way round the slopes in America; accident cover when you are 65

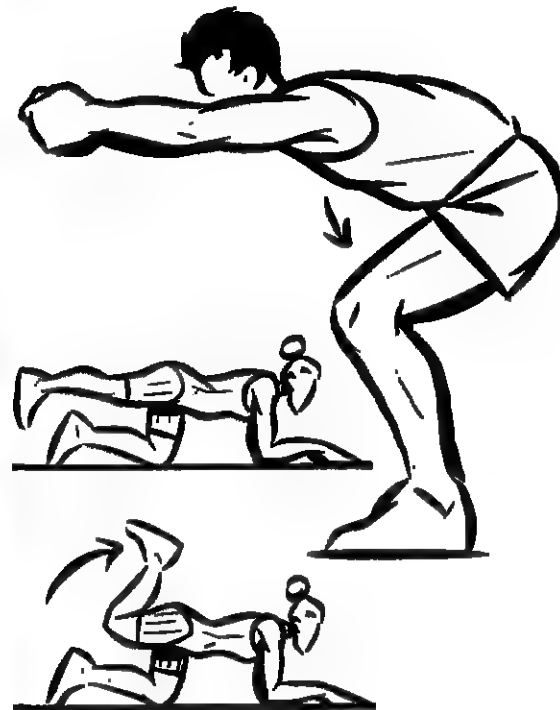


The Vail valley in Colorado provides some of the best skiing and the most breathtaking views in the world in a setting that displays the best and worst of American wealth

## PRE SKI

**STRENGTH**  
(Quadriceps and Hamstrings)  
① Downhill hold: Same position as downhill squats (last week), hold your arms in front.

Aim for the angle at your knee joint to be 90 degrees. Try to get your chest on your thighs. Hold for a few seconds, and vary pressure from one foot to another.



② Leg curls: Kneel on the floor, knees below hips, weight forward on elbows. Extend one leg and flex the foot. Bend the leg, squeezing the heel towards the buttock, hold for a second and extend again. Repeat 15 times.

Exercises extracted from *Skiing* by Tessa Coker, from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 118 Eaton Square, London (£2.50 inc. p&pp). The Times cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described above.

## American snowshoe shuffle

Holidays on the ski slopes, if you have the knack, can be an antidote to winter blues, but reading about the wonders of skiing does little to raise the spirits of non-skiers. How Olympian skiers must feel, as they fly like bolts of lightning down the mountainside. How godlike, too, as they parade in their finery and partake of the elysian pleasures of *après ski*. But what envy and resentment skiers induce in us earthbound mortals as they return to work and flaunt their sunbaked and flagrant good health.

The skiing cure for the winter virus has never worked for me, though it's not for want of trying. I realise I'm not really the sporty type, but my timing has been wrong as well. My last two skiing expeditions were with my family, and I was already in my mid-

forties. We all signed on for the beginners' class on the lower slopes. In any group there has to be a butt, and as the oldest and least sure-footed member I was naturally consigned that role. I accepted my fate, but minded the speed with which my wife and children were promoted to the bright upper slopes. Twenty years passed, and I tried again — this time the tamer but more strenuous cross-country version, sometimes known as *langlauf*. We were an agreeable mature bunch, and all might have been well except that I fell heavily on a hidden stump, bruised my rib and was declared out of action.

Now I am in my mid-sixties and it may seem a little eccentric to have given skiing one more chance. But when my wife and I received an invitation to join friends for cross-country skiing in Colorado the opportunity had to be grasped.

I agree that the United States is a long way to go for a week's skiing, but our friends were staying in a particularly delectable corner of that gloriously endowed state, a mecca for outdoor folk. Our destination was a few miles up the valley from Vail, but a world away from the glitz of that resort.

Ten years ago, Cordillera was a bare mountain, 8,000 feet up,

surrounded on all sides by the spectacular peaks of the Rockies. Then an imaginative entrepreneur fell in love with the site and dreamed a dream. First he built a small luxury hotel called The Lodge and hired a fine young Belgian chef. Then he constructed cross-country tracks, tennis courts, swimming pools and whirlpools, a leisure centre and a championship golf course. Today, that bare mountain is an exclusive resort: no ski lifts, no condominiums, no high-rise apartments, no boutiques.

Yes, Cordillera, like the whole of the Vail valley, is *nouveau* and also *très, très riche*. But it is also one of

the most breathtaking spots I have seen. And the hotel is a model of its kind. The exuberant and mazy staff are very different from the snooty bunch one often finds in expensive American establishments. We had been once before in high summer, when hiking and mountain-biking were the order of the day. We couldn't resist the invitation to see the place in its winter clothing.

I'd like to report that my fourth attempt at staying upright succeeded, but though I worked at it I came a cropper again and again. I was a four-time loser. Rosie, my sympathetic ski instructor, was encouraging,

but when I fell heavily for the ninth time I knew I would never make it. "I think that's a real wise decision, Hilary," said Rosie.

But my resolve to quit cross-country skiing did not, as I'd expected, ban me from the upper slopes and force me to become just a hot-tub potato. There was an alternative form of footwear, I discovered to my delight, which still gave me the freedom of the snowfield. Snowshoes are, of course, as old as the hills, but within the last year an adaptation of the original Nordic contraption, a tennis-racket-shaped frame which you strap to your boot, has

been developed in America. Made from light metal and neoprene, they are now, at least in the United States, used as a highly popular alternative to skis, and by no means just by senior citizens.

They even feature in a triathlon, along with skating and *langlauf*. The snowshoe shuffle is not glamorous — it's plodding — but you are not dependent on ski lifts. You can't fall, you don't have to keep your eyes fixed on the track ahead and you can safely walk all day on deep, soft, virgin snow.

Failed skiers of the world, take heart. With snowshoes, you have nothing to lose but your aches and pains.

HILARY RUBINSTEIN

● The Lodge at Cordillera, Edwards, Vail Valley, Colorado 81632 (910) 1 303 926 2200; fax 010 1 303 926 3466, is a two hours' drive from Denver.

As the lakes freeze over and the snow begins to fall, Michigan turns pure mystical white. There's a deafening silence that greets your ears and a breathtaking beauty besets your eyes.

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**MICHIGAN**  
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## Mature skiers face uphill insurance

WIDE-BODY "fat boy" skis have added ten years or more to a skier's quality time on the slopes. But most ski insurers charge pensioners double premiums, and many refuse to issue policies to skiers over 65. Ski specialist Douglas Cox Tyrie limits his Breakaway annual travel insurance, which includes 17 days' ski cover, to clients under 66. The Mondial Assistance annual

travel insurance, with 17 days' winter sports cover, has a limit of 75. Hamilton Barr, a popular insurer with tour operators, demands double premiums for pensioners, and will not issue policies to skiers over 80. Snowboard insurance agents consider clients over 65 on a case-by-case basis, doubling all rates for pensioners accepted and limiting cover to skiers under 76. Suretravel also doubles premiums for pensioners. And Columbus Direct carries a policy rider noting that its personal accident cover does not apply to clients over 70.

Ken Palmer, general manager of Fogg, one of the leading ski insurance companies, says actuarial statis-

tics indicate that skiers over 65 are three and a half to four times more likely to sustain injury.

Fogg, insurers for the ski consultants Snowline is, however, one of the few firms with no age limit or premium surcharge. "We have an 82-year-old female skier, and we were pleased to insure her," Mr Palmer says.

David Fox, of ski specialists Matthew Gerard, asks: "Why should a fit 70-year-old pay more than somebody at 50 with chronic heart disease?"

Mr Gerard's ski policies contain no surcharges for pensioners skiing in Europe, but premiums are doubled for North America. The French Carte Neige, valid for rescue services throughout the world but with limited medical cover, has no surcharges or limits on age.

DOUG SAGER

● Matthew Gerard, 01483 730900; Hamilton Barr, 01483 426600; Fogg, 01623 631331; Douglas Cox Tyrie, 0181 5349595; Snowboard, 01322 263895.

● Carte Neige cover can be arranged in Britain on 01544 388146.

CHRIS BARRY



Older skiers are four times more likely to suffer injury



Ski Whistler/Blackcomb with Ski Thomson this winter for breathtaking skiing — some wicked couloirs for experts and plenty of cruising slopes for the morning after. Fly into Vancouver and stay at the 4T Fairways Hotel for 7 nights from only £486 in January.

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Where is everybody?

WEEKEND SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 1995

20

# TRAVEL

NEW ZEALAND: Whale-watching; and turquoise lagoons of the South Pacific

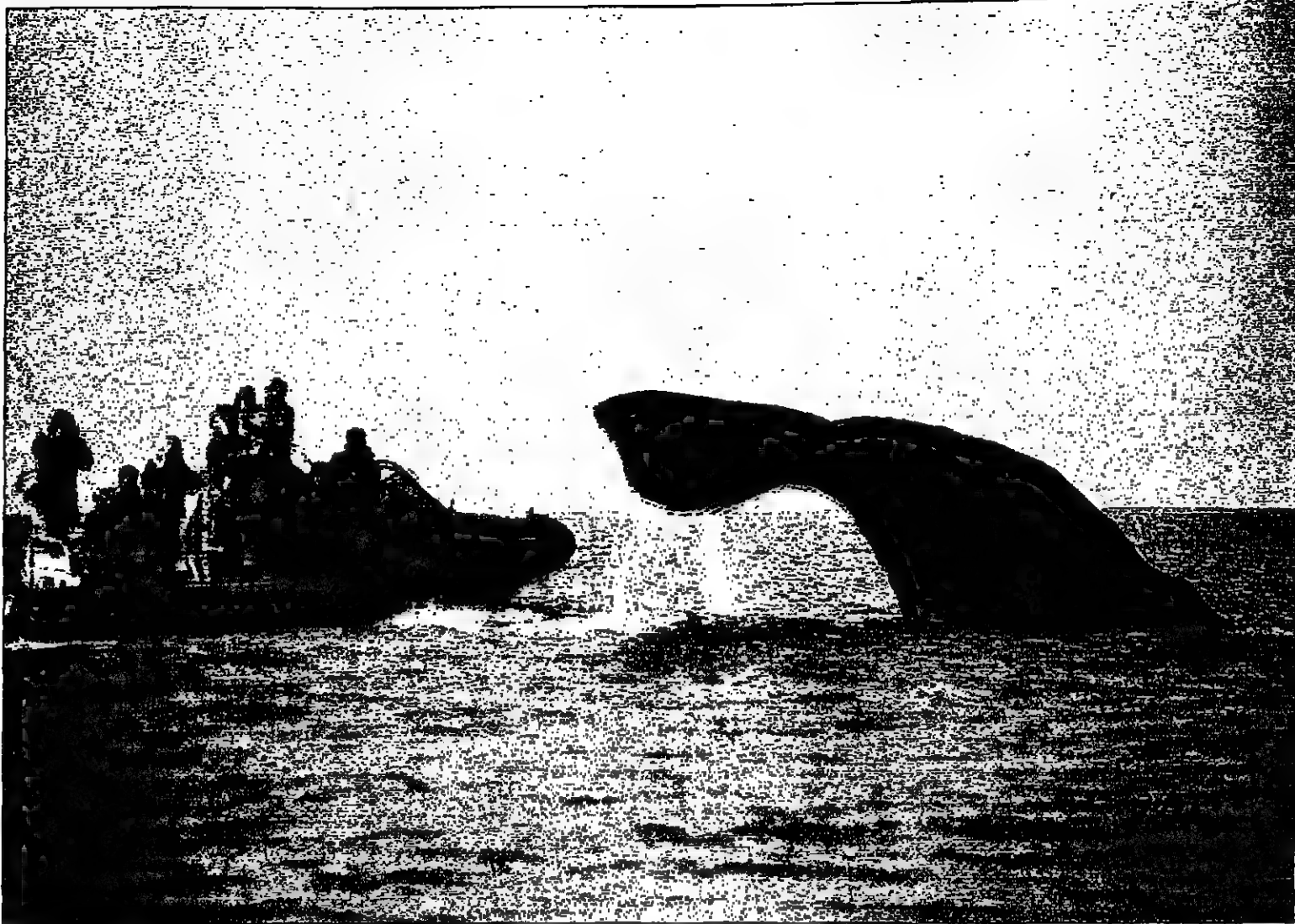
## Singing with the dolphins

The waters of the Pacific off the east coast of New Zealand are extremely cold, even in summer. At Sam on a Saturday, the last thing I wanted to do was slide into the icy ocean but, an hour later, equipped with a mask, snorkel, flippers and wearing a black wetsuit and hood, I took the plunge from a boat near Kaikoura, at the northeast end of the South Island, on an expedition to swim with dolphins.

After about 20 minutes, the first pod of dolphins was sighted. My initial glimpse of the leaping Dusky dolphins (one of 36 different species) was breathtaking. I had expected to see small groups of 20 or 30, but there were about 200, moving with incredible grace and speed. Our boat was moving at 25 knots alongside the pod, but the dolphins kept up effortlessly. Several swam over and played in the bow wave, or dived under one side of the boat and emerged on the other.

After a few minutes, the boat accelerated just ahead of the pod, and then stopped. The horn was sounded and we divers quickly slipped over the side into the water.

On this, the first of three drops, our group tried singing to the dolphins. The guide on the boat had told us that singing and mimicry interests the



Visitors to Kaikoura can spend their holidays watching whales at close range and also get the chance to swim with and sing to dolphins

Being so close to such beautiful mammals is a moving experience

dolphins and helps to keep them in the immediate vicinity but, on reflection, I cannot believe that any mammals, especially those with such sensitive hearing, enjoy listening to humans singing, particularly groups as diverse and discordant as ours.

The racket generated through snorkels by two Japanese women, a French couple, two German men, two Italians and a Briton was terrible. Each individual sang a different tune in a different language. I tried *Summertime*. The dolphins decided to keep moving.

On the second drop, we used our energy for duck-diving. At one point, two or three dolphins circled me, less than an arm's length away; being so close to such beautiful mammals in their own environment was a moving experience.

Our final drop among the dolphins was equally exciting. It is difficult to describe the joy and excitement that the dolphins convey through their leaps and dives. Dusky dolphins are the most acrobatic members of the dolphin family. They can spin, somersault forward and backward and leap several feet clear of the water.

The marine life at Kaikoura, unlike that at Monkey Mia in Australia or Eliat in Israel, is not fed or restrained in any way. The clash of warm and cold currents by the Kaikoura Can-

yon creates an up-swell which brings nutrient-rich water to the surface. This food attracts plankton, which, in turn, attracts fish of all sizes, and sperm whales weighing up to 50 tonnes.

Whales are something very different, as I discovered during my stay. The best time to watch them is at sunrise, when the water is calm.

I trudged down to the whale-watching station at Sam and joined the group of 30 sleepy-eyed tourists who were waiting for transportation to the harbour, where we were allocated seats on a small boat.

The red sunrise over the ocean was spectacular. On the way to the viewing area our Maori guide explained echolocation, the use of underwater microphones to detect the clicking of the sperm whales. Once a whale surfaces, it usually stays there for several minutes to fill its lungs: plenty of time to take pictures. However, after it has dived, it may stay underwater for up to an hour and a half. The trick is to locate the whale, through its clicks, just before it rises to the surface.

Most tourist trips sight two to six whales. On my outing, we spotted five separately. Because these enormous creatures need large feeding areas, it is rare to see them in groups. It is hard to appreciate the wonder

of the whales when surrounded by 30 amateur photographers, so we were taken to the boat's viewing platform in groups of five. My peek was definitely worthwhile. I watched a whale, almost 20 metres long, arch its back and then dive beneath the surface with surprising grace. Two seconds after the whale's back disappeared, its tail emerged for a moment — posed for photos — and then it too was gone.

Whale Watch Kaikoura, the company which organised the trip, recently beat 120 entries to win the British Airways "Tourism for Tomorrow" award. The company's success with whale-watching has led to proposals for a further operation to be set up by a rival company, and the New Zealand High Court has just upheld a decision that the Department of Conservation has the right to issue another whale-watching permit. This may turn out to be too much of a good thing, according to some environmentalists, who fear that more trips will scare away the marine life.

Kaikoura is not the only place in New Zealand for sighting marine mammals. The Bay of Islands runs dolphin expeditions, and whales are often seen along the coast. On the

ferry crossing from the north to the south island, whale sightings are frequent. Many New Zealanders fondly remember the dolphin at Hokiangia dubbed "Opo", who, in 1955, made such regular appearances in the harbour that thousands of people flocked to the town every weekend to paddle in the same water, play ball games with it, or place their children on its back.

Nowhere else in the world can such a wide variety of whales and dolphins be viewed so closely.

Whale-watching trips and dolphin swimming expeditions run throughout the year, although the weather affects the sort of marine life present. Two days before my trip (in late November), several groups were fortunate enough to see a pod of Orca, for example. Such adventures are well worth the £40 charge.

There are numerous other activities on offer to visitors to New Zealand: rock climbing, abseiling, horse-riding, skiing, caving, bungee-jumping, tandem sky-diving, and trekking the rugged tracks in the majestic fjordland of the South Island and thermal regions of the North Island. There are also varied watersports, making use of inland rapids and the extensive beaches.

MICHAEL LEVENTHAL

### Kiwi contacts

✉ Air New Zealand (011-741 2299) flies four times a week from Heathrow to Christchurch, via Los Angeles and Auckland, from £1,365 return.

✉ Transportation from Christchurch to Kaikoura, for an adult return, costs £21 by train, £34 by bus and £68 by air.

✉ New Zealand Tourist Board, New Zealand House, Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4TG. Tel: 0839 300 900 (9p per minute, off peak, fax 0171-839 8929). Alternatively, Kaikoura Information and Tourism Inc, West End, Kaikoura, NZ, tel: 01064-3-319 5843 fax: 01064-3-319 6819.

✉ Dolphin Encounter run trips only between October and April. Snorkelling gear and buoyancy vests are provided. Trips cost £35 (adults) or £23 (children under 15). Adult spectators are charged £23, children £16. For more details contact Dennis Bourman, Dolphin Encounter, Kaikoura, NZ, tel: 01064-3-319 6777, fax: 01064-3-319 6534.

✉ For details on whale-watching: Whale Watch Kaikoura Ltd, The Whaleyway Station, PO Box 89, Kaikoura, tel: 01064-3-319 5045, fax: 01064-3-319 5045. Trips cost £31 per adult per trip.

✉ Motels provide the best accommodation in Kaikoura, charging £23-£40 per night, per studio (no meals included). Christchurch, however, has a wide variety of hotels.

## On the trail of Captain Cook

FIFTEEN tiny islands, averaging barely six square miles each, but scattered across almost a million square miles of crystal-clear blue ocean: the remote and serenely beautiful Cook Islands amount to the South Pacific with an antipodean accent.

Annexed to New Zealand by the British in 1901, the Cooks lie slap in the middle of the Polynesian triangle, midway between Tonga and Tahiti. Situated 2,000 miles north west of Auckland, and as far south of the equator as Hawaii is north, they offer all the exotica of the South Seas with most of the mod cons of life down under.

On the main island of Rarotonga, accessible by a direct, four-hour flight from Auckland, some 20,000 European tourists a year (a quarter of them British) join twice as many Australasians, Americans and Japanese in minibus or on mopeds to take the 20-mile road around the circumference of a temperate tropical island whose mountainous interior is too rugged to attract any but the hardiest trekkers.

It is barely ten years since tourism developed here, and veterans of other, less westernised South Pacific islands may regret it. From one of two resort hotels, the Rarotonga or the Edgewater, the new breed of South Seas adventurer can learn the ancient tribal arts of basket weaving, fishing, coconut husking, even native dancing, in school crocodiles curling around the charming, (if slightly Disneyesque) Cultural Village. Or, in the Cook Islands' capital of Avarua, you can take a tour of the brewery,

whose excellent product is named after the seafarer.

Though the first to chart them, the intrepid Captain James Cook never actually landed in the islands which bear his name. The first Europeans to set foot in Rarotonga, in 1789, were the *Bounty* mutineers.

The *Bounty*'s last port of call before the mutiny had been the atoll of Aitutaki — whose cannibal tribes had only recently been converted by the legendary missionary, John Williams, who would wind up being killed and eaten in Vanuatu. The second largest Cook Island, though only seven sparsely populated square miles, Aitutaki is surrounded by a stunning turquoise lagoon, dotted with tiny motus (or smaller islands), which help justify its claim to being the most exquisitely beautiful of all Pacific islands.

TAKE the 40-minute flight from Rarotonga, bump across Aitutaki's few miles of dirt track in an open-top, and you board the boat ride of your dreams to picture-postcard islets and coral reefs. Here you can swim, snorkel and eat barbecued fish caught and cooked by singing boatmen on the desert island of your choice, and wonder why you ever booked a ticket home.

ANTHONY HOLDEN

✉ The author was a guest of Kuoni Travel and Air New Zealand. The Cook Islands are an optional South Pacific stopover offered by Kuoni in its return airfare to Auckland, Christchurch or Wellington, from £919 to £1,500 according to season. Telephone: 01306-741111. A day trip to Aitutaki costing £145 can be booked via your hotel or local phone 22-828.

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DAY 3 Zanzibar Full day visit.  
DAY 4 At sea.  
DAY 5 Mayotte Full day visit.  
DAY 6 May Be Full day visit.  
DAY 7 At sea.  
DAY 8 Maye Morning arrival — full day and moor overnight.  
DAY 9 Praslin Full day visit and moor overnight.  
DAY 10 La Digue Morning visit.  
DAY 11 At sea.  
DAY 12 At sea.  
DAY 13 Mombasa Arrive and transfer to the first class Flamingo Beach Hotel for a 2 night stay.  
DAY 14 Mombasa At leisure.  
DAY 15 Mombasa-London Day flight arriving Gatwick mid-afternoon.

Before reaching the Seychelles we will drop anchor off the northern tip of Madagascar at the island of Noxy Be, an intriguing, mountainous island of lovely beaches and plantations, where hopefully we will see lemurs. Our time in the Seychelles will be centred around Mahe and the nearby island of Praslin where we will visit the dramatic rain forest of Vallee de Mai, described by General Gordon as the 'Forgotten Eden'. We will also visit the charming island of La Digue, surely one of the most beautiful of all the Seychelles islands.

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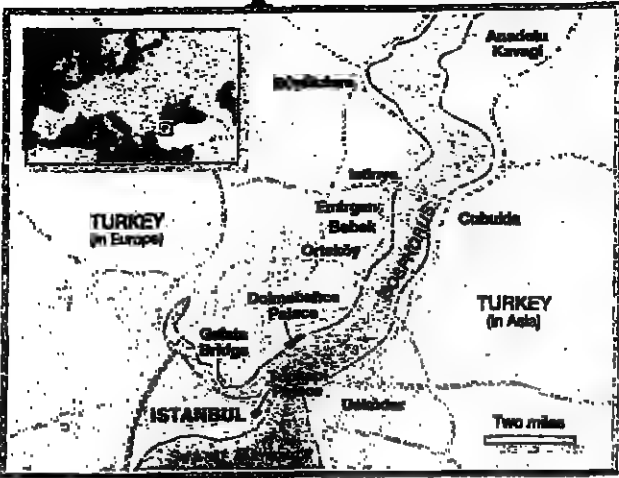






TURKEY: City break in Istanbul; bathtime in the imperial city; mirror image of the Ottoman Empire

## Hypnotised by the Bosphorus



You could only just see the Bosphorus from the khedive's summer palace, but it was always there just the same. From the vast semi-circular dining room — restored, art deco style, as if for an Agatha Christie convention — its grey waters glimmered faintly through the dripping rose gardens and groves of dark cypress trees. It was our wedding anniversary and out of season.

The only other guests that day at the Hidi Kasri, a short ferry ride up river from Istanbul at Cubuklu, were a disembodied wedding dress in a glass case, and a cat, small, pied, and alley-wise, who picked his way familiarly through the marble fountains and the potted palms to snare most of our lunch.

In Istanbul it is possible to spend whole days at a time hypnotised by water. Our room at the Avicenna Hotel in the old quarter of town had a balcony facing the Sea of Marmara, and even in October it was warm enough to sit out there at breakfast (crumbly white sheep's cheese, olives and rose-petal jam) and watch the changes of light across the water. On fine days, salty and blue as the Aegean; on grey ones, striped dazingly with light. At midday, the perspective was so flat that the cargo tankers clustered together en route for the Black Sea looked like cut-out shapes.

Like all famous cities, there is an element of tyranny involved in visiting Istanbul: all those mosques and palaces and bazaars to "do" before you can get on with the real business of enjoying yourself. Take the Dolmabahce Palace for example. Only one word describes this 19th-century palace of the Ottoman sultans: preposterous. Tours are obligatory, security is tight, and, in my opinion at least, even half an hour spent tramping along its gilded corridors is an elevating experience. But the view overlooking the Bosphorus... well, that was something else.

There is no doubt that the Bosphorus is the genius of this city. The Turks have always known it, and built their summer palaces and pavilions on its cool banks. For the price of a tumbler of *ayran* (buttermilk) or a thimble-sized glass of apple tea, you can sit out on one of the Dolmabahce's mar-

KATIE HICKMAN

### Passport to Turkish delights

- The author was a guest of Time Off, specialists in short city breaks located at Chester Street, London SW1X 7BG (0171-235 8070). Two nights in Istanbul from £299.
- Turkish Tourist Bureau, 170-173 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DD (0171-629 7771).
- Guide book to Istanbul and the Bosphorus: *Strolling Through Istanbul*, by Hilary Sumner Boyd and John Freely.



The Hagia Sophia, one of the oldest Turkish baths in Istanbul, lists among its visitors Edward VIII, Kaiser Wilhelm, Franz Liszt, Florence Nightingale and Tony Curtis

## Turkish bath fit for a sultan

Call me Ismael. I was nearing the end of my Turkish bath when he introduced himself. At the time he was performing a curious manoeuvre which entailed separating my fingers into two groups of two, and splitting them to almost cracking point in an extreme version of Mr Spock's Vulcan salute before whipping my whole arm with a violent jerk of his wrists. Next, my other arm was stretched out from my shoulder, my fingers separated and my wrists snapped with a jerk — I swear, my fillings jangled.

Ismael is a masseur at the Hagia Sophia, one of the oldest Turkish baths (Hamam) in Istanbul. The Hagia Sophia is tucked away off one of the main roads leading up from the Ayasofya and Blue Mosques in the old quarter. We approached it down half-a-dozen marble steps to a small wooden door. On the wall outside was a menu and price list of the services on offer: self-service bath, scrubbed assisted bath, massage, a *la turc*, complete bath service, and finally, the complete oriental luxury service, which was billed as being fit for a sultan.

Customers go inside, pick the service they want, hand over the money and get a token denoting their chosen washes. There were two separate baths: one for men and the other for women, who are attended by masseuses.

The reception area is a large marble courtyard, with marbled floor, wall and ceiling, arranged around an ornate fountain. Stairs in the corners lead up to two tiers of balconies. I was shown to one of the changing rooms which lined the balconies. They were all identical and

each one contained a narrow couch and a rough wooden table. I was given a key and a rough cotton wraparound, which the attendant informed me by miming a quick striptease that I had to change into.

Downstairs, I was immediately shown through an archway which led to a large heavy wooden door banded with straps of wrought iron. As the door swung open slowly on creaky hinges, wet, warm heat seeped out and muffled sounds of lazily slapped flesh echoed gently off the marble walls which I glimpsed beyond. This was the peep behind the veil. Here I was about to experience something uniquely Turkish, a living part of the culture which remains unchanged and stretches back through the centuries beyond the days of Sulaiman the Magnificent to the thousand and one nights of Scheherazade.

Architecturally, the hamam was similar to the interior of a mosque. It was arranged below a dome. A circular colonnade of archways defined the circumference, each one housing a small ornately carved marble basin into which warm water poured constantly. But the dominant feature of the room was a large, circular dais of solid marble standing

almost a metre off the floor. This slab is where the action takes place. It is also where a lot of the inaction takes place. A dozen men stretched out like cats in the sun letting the heat gently sweat out the grime of the day.

A Turkish bath is, obviously, a social activity and after a hard day's haggling at the bazaar, or at the end of an eight-hour shift steering a *dolmus* taxi through Istanbul's choking streets, men visit them to unwind, relax, talk and bond together.

The Hagia Sophia is one of Istanbul's oldest and most famous Turkish baths. It was built at the beginning of the 18th century as a temple to bathing and used to be the exclusive preserve of the sultan, caliphs and viziers as well as other chosen favourites. In more recent times, the great and the good who have come to throw their bodies on this high altar of ablution have included Edward VIII, Kaiser Wilhelm, Franz Liszt and Florence Nightingale.

You can lie wherever there is a space, and the rule seemed to be to lie with your head pointing towards the centre of the circle, fat and thin and tall and short alike. From a bird's eye view we must have looked like a dozen long and short hands on the

face of a watch. Most men seemed to be content to let the steady warmth slowly cleanse them. However, one was getting the treatment from a solidly built masseur who, for a big man, possessed an extraordinarily keen sense of balance. How could I tell? Because he was walking up the back of his client's leg, pivoting just below his backside and strolling down the other one.

I'd been there about half an hour and was beginning to think that they had forgotten all about me, and not minding in the least, when there was a tap on my shoulder. Enter Ismael. At just over six feet tall, and with the build of a Saracens lock forward, he was a heavyweight among masseurs.

Ismael nodded his head in the direction of the wall, led me over to a sink and pointed for me to sit down on the marble floor. Then he took a plastic bowl and scooped up hot water from the basin and poured it all over me. He then proceeded to scour me all over, starting with my arms and legs to remove any old skin scales. Then it was back to the slab where he indicated I should lay down on my back. He left me there for a

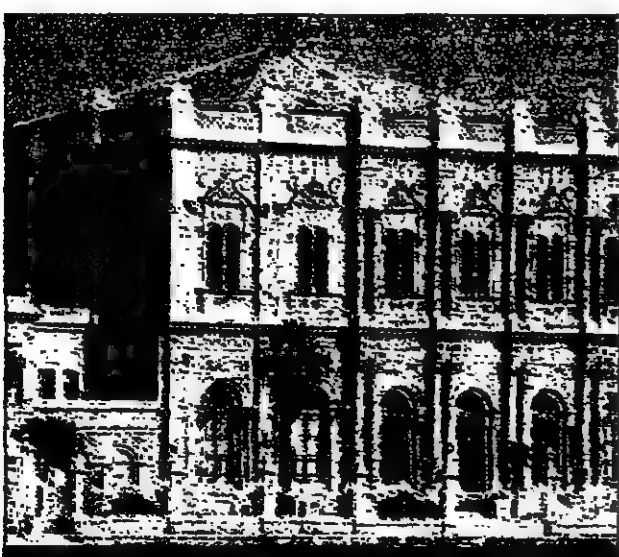
couple of minutes and returned with what looked like two large see-through pillowcases full of bubbles. These turned out to be blocks of soap suds which he broke over me (very ticklish) and then rubbed up and down my legs and all over my chest and arms. This softening up process didn't last very long before the rough stuff started. I had never been manhandled by another man before and was unprepared for the strength he exerted on me. And that is precisely what you feel throughout the whole experience: his strength, not any hurt or discomfort.

The whole thing lasts about 20 minutes and incorporates every variety of pummelling and prodding, squeezing and squishing, and stretching and straining of neck, shoulders, abdomen, arms, thighs, calves and feet — nothing escapes. He even gave my scalp a massage, placing the heels of his palms on each of my temples, steeping his fingers over my head and squeezing his hands together in a vice like grip. This is a Turkish-style facelift, because that is what it does. Your face feels like jelly each time he lets go as it wobbles back into place.

A final wash and a slap on the shoulder told me it was all over. But, when I got upstairs the pampering went on. The attendant who brought me down was there to greet me again, sit me down and towel me dry. What had it been like? Actually, it was really good fun. I stepped out into the early evening sunshine feeling like one of those children in the old television advertisements who were all aglow after a bowl of porridge. But before I left I slipped Ismael a tip. He had earned it.

BOB MADDAMS

## Where concubines slept



Concubines' apartments at the Dolmabahce Palace, shut for 100 years by the sultan, are now reopened

THE SULTAN's orders were precise. The concubines' apartments were to be closed for 100 years. Now they are open again, taking visitors still deeper into the vast Dolmabahce Palace, Istanbul, which in size rivals the Louvre. The concubines' apartments are just one stop on what already provides the fullest and most varied insight into royal life to be found in any European capital.

Over the past decade, work has proceeded at a furious pace in eight astonishing 19th-century palaces in Istanbul. Long derided as symbols of the decline and decadence of the Ottoman Empire, they are now re-emerging as among

the most opulent, untouched surviving Victorian interiors.

"Every part of every royal palace must be on show or given a new use," says Metin Sozen, who has overseen the restoration of the palaces. Here for once is a curator who sympathises with the inquisitive visitor who wants to explore every recess. Where there is nothing to see, he installs beautiful displays of imperial treasures or sets up restoration workshops. At Dolmabahce there are studios for carpenters, wood carvers, furniture polishers, painters and upholsterers.

Dolmabahce, which was completed in 1853 by Sultan Abdul Mecid and built by the

Armenian architect Karabet Balian, sits on the edge of the Bosphorus like a Venetian palace. Never has an obsession with symmetry been so indulged. There are not just matching doors on opposite sides of rooms, but matching fireplaces — four in the larger saloons. Every hall or saloon has its precise counterpart above or below as well as at the opposite end of the palace.

Imperial staircases abound — those designed with one flight branching into two — but the grandest here are double imperials, mirror images of themselves. You mount the first flight to proceed, four up and one down again. Here are chimney pieces in red Bohemian crystal, enamel and ormolu, candelabra in four or two, crystal stair balustrades and Limoges door handles. And instead of the drugged which demands so many palace interiors, visitors walk along hundreds of yards of specially woven red carpet.

None of this is a preparation for the great hall, a space that almost compares in volume with Santa Sophia. The columns along its sides are ranged three deep, a realisa-

tion in three dimensions of the fantasy palaces of Piranesi and his contemporaries.

Turkish custom decreed that the women of the household should never be seen. The perimeter wall, as it passes the sultana's apartments suddenly rises to three storeys. In exotic terms, the highlight of the tour is the Turkish bath, entirely paneled in alabaster brought from Egypt. By contrast, the concubines' apartments speak little of the arts of seduction — besides simple bedrooms with brass bedsteads and innumerable cots.

The climax of any Bosphorus trip has to be a visit to Kediv Kasri, built high on a crag in 1900 for the last khedive of Egypt. It has been restored as a hotel and restaurant by the Turkish Touring and Automobile Club.

For a very different and very commercial kind of restoration, brave a visit to the Ciragan Palace Hotel. Ignore the anonymous new building beside it and, preferably fortified by a large drink, enter the world of the Arabian Nights, seen not through the eyes of Disney, but Bombay.

MARCUS BINNEY

## A JOURNEY TO ARABIA FELIX

Of all the lands in the Middle East, the Yemen — the Arabia Felix of the ancient world — is the least known and the most spectacular. Its scenery varies from the hot, semi-desert plains along the Red Sea coast, up through green rolling hills scored with innumerable terraces, to the towering mountains of its heartland, rising to 10,000ft or more; its inhabitants are the most colourful in the Arab world, while its architecture is unique and fascinating — whether in the mountain towns like Jibla and Thula or the desert city of Zabid. Sheba's dam at Marib or the intricately-decorated and many-storied houses of the capital, Sana'a.

The history of Yemen finds itself at a convergence of eras and cultures, at the crossroads of the spice, incense, myrrh and gold routes, the meeting point of the Far East and the Mediterranean. Through the centuries it has seen the influence of Ethiopians, Persians, Turks and, in the last century, the British whose influence is still felt.

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of history, demonstrating a fascinating variety of architectural styles. In addition, the Yemeni people are friendly and hospitable with a surprising number English.

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COOKING: In the golden triangle, preparing food is second nature. But Westerners can learn the secrets

# The kitchen gods are in their Thai heaven

**K**hun Pip is a cook by trade, a giggler by nature. Fluttering a hand in front of her mouth, she giggles at her own jokes. Other people's jokes and between jokes. What makes her double-up with laughter is the notion of Western celebrity chefs who appear on television and write books on how to cook.

"Everyone cooks in Thailand," she says. "We are brought up learning how to prepare and cook food. It comes naturally. We don't need recipe books or strangers on television telling us what to do. It's second nature. Eating is our greatest pleasure."

Khun Pip is mistress of the Thai House, her home on the banks of a canal 45 minutes by long-tail taxi boat from the bustling centre of Bangkok. She and her husband, Khun Paiboon, have extended their golden teak building, with its steeply pitched wing-shaped roof inspired by temples, to accommodate a dozen or so *farangs* who prefer to experience Thailand by staying in a family-run guest house rather than in a hotel.

Khun Paiboon engenders *sauk* (a good time), pouring Singha beer, while his wife plays a more practical role in the kitchen. She has spotted a niche in the market. Not only does she cook for appreciative foreigners, she now teaches them how to do it.

It takes sense. From a standing start two decades ago, the UK now has about 500 Thai restaurants. Increasingly, the 250,000-plus British visitors to Thailand every year want to bring home a practical understanding of the food they have enjoyed on holiday.

Which is why a handful of us are in her shady open-air kitchen, chopping meat and vegetables and pounding spices with a mortar and pestle for tonight's dinner: green beef curry, stir-fried pork with yard-long beans and hot and sour prawn soup.

"Thailand has a special smell," she says. "It's called food." More specifically, lemon grass, coriander, kaffir-lime leaves, sweet basil, galangal (a close relation of ginger), garlic, coconut milk and fish sauce.

Among our number, a dab hand with the wok is Chris Gow who spent most of his late twenties and early thirties in Southeast Asia. He has now set up A Feast of Thailand, one of the ingredients in his activity-holidays programme which takes the form of ecofriendly tourism, assisting local development without being a destructive influence on native cultures and environments.

His pick-and-choose menu includes trekking through villages in the mountainous jungle of the Golden Triangle, riding rapids on bamboo rafts and paddling dugout canoes in tropical rivers, snorkelling in the warm waters of the Andaman Sea or cycling in Vietnam. "Thai cooking is bubbling to the top," says Mr Gow, who is more at home in a three-wheeled motorised tuk-tuk in Bangkok or a pedal-driven *samlor* rickshaw in Chiang Mai than he is in a London taxi.

The second day of our Feast of Thailand whistle-stop tour begins shortly after dawn with a visit to Bangkok's main fruit and vegetable market on the banks of the Chao Phraya river, the heart of Bangkok with its arteries of *klongs* (canals) stretching throughout the city. Much of the produce still comes down river in barge chains, sometimes three or four together pulled by one small tug, water lapping over the sides. They are supplemented by convoys of trucks carrying fresh vegetables which thread their way through the narrow streets nearby after the journey from farms outside the city.

The vast interior of the covered market is landscaped with mountains of fruit, vegetables, herbs and spices of every shape and colour. There are over 40 varieties of chilli alone, ranging

from large and mild to a tiny terror whose name translates as "rat-dropping pepper". The palette of herbs, vegetables and fruit includes purple aubergine, green papaya, black pepper corns, yellow, green and red chillis. There are two dozen kinds of banana, as well as pineapple, jackfruit, mango, rambutan, mangosteen, melon, lychee, papaya, guava, coconut and that notorious delicacy, the durian.

"Eating durian has been compared to swallowing sweet pink blanchmange in a Third World public lavatory," says one of our party later on. It is a remark which bears little comparison with our latest surroundings, now that we have progressed from the market to the opulence of the Oriental Hotel, whose plumbing was once the subject of extravagant praise from the King of Siam.

The hotel, "the old lady of the Chao Phraya River", has been voted the world's best. Visitors such as Somerset Maugham, Noël Coward and Joseph Conrad have praised its kitchens. For the past few years its offshoot, the Oriental Cooking School on the opposite bank of the river, has been sharing its culinary secrets with Western students keen to discover the finer points of Thai cuisine.

Here Khun Sansern, surrounded by a phalanx of assistants in starched kitchen whites, puts on a show worthy of a conjuror. He weaves magic with noodles. Different coloured dishes emerge from his wok like silk scarves from a top hat. His sleight of hand transforms fruit into carved flowers. After three hours, we have the magic words *kin hai aroy* — bon appetit — and make it all disappear.

Equally theatrical is the performance later that evening at Bangkok's Royal Dragon restaurant (*Mang Gorn Luang*). Sir Terence Conran would approve not only of the food from every region of Thailand but also of the gastronomic nature of the operation. Billed by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the largest restaurant in the world, it seats 5,000 customers served by 1,200 staff, some of them on roller skates.

A Feast of Thailand is not restricted to table and tummy. You can pack in as much beach or temple as you want. Two days later we are in northern Thailand putting up the Kok River in a faint morning drizzle, heading for a village of the farming Karens, the largest of the six hill tribes. Of Burmese origin, their women are skilled weavers of cotton tunics, often in red and orange, which they embroider and decorate with seeds.

Two by two we board elephants, which set off through the mountainous jungle, picking their way delicately along narrow, muddy paths made slippery by the earlier monsoon rain. The nearest we get to civilisation on this part of the trip is our arrival, three hours later, at a village of the Mien, the most "Chinese" of the hill tribes. In contrast with the Karens, cotton dyed a deep indigo is the basic material for their textiles, embroidered with brightly coloured cross-stitching.

Our final day, though, is a homage to northern Thai food on the veranda of the stilted Teak Villa inn on a north-facing hillside overlooking the mighty Mekong river in the Golden Triangle.

steamed fish in banana leaf, a mild chicken curry flavoured with Burmese turmeric, spicy sausage, chilli soup and sticky rice.

Across the murky water lies Laos. To the west is Burma and further north and north-east, a few horizons away, is China. A Singha beer is to hand, we feast well, and the kitchen gods are in their heaven.

ALASDAIR RILEY

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□ The author was a guest of Symbiosis Expedition Planning — organisers of special-interest and adventure holidays in South-East Asia — the Tourism authority of Thailand and British Airways.

□ A Symbiosis Feast of Thailand culinary tour (four days in Bangkok and six days in Chiang Mai and the north of Thailand or Bangkok and six days in either Phuket or Koh Samui in the south), with standard accommodation and return flights from London, costs from approximately £1,195 per person. Prices can vary with holidays tailor-made to clients' requirements. Symbiosis Expedition Planning, 113 Bolingbroke Grove, London SW11 1DA (0171-924 5906).



Normandy castle towers over the quiet countryside where few Parisians venture

## A feast of learning

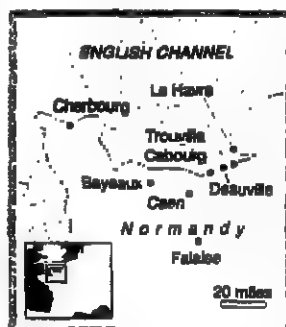
**B**efore we set off for Normandy, I asked a friend who has guided many tours through northern France what was so special about the region. Karen thought for a moment, then summed it up: "A stubborn lot, the Normans," she said. And so they are. In the most delightful way. They hang on to their traditions, even though they are within a couple of hours' drive of Paris. Pig-headed, their critics call them, but they like their cream and their Livarot cheese, their half-timber houses and their busy fishing ports.

Very non-English but not very far away. As an old man walking in the garden of our chateau hotel near Caen reminded me within two minutes of our meeting: "England is truly ours, you know. It belongs to the Dukes of Normandy."

Whether we are theirs or not, for the British visitor Normandy continues to be a revelation. The number of Parisians who spend leisure time in inland Normandy is amazingly small — and those who do head west are usually taking a break in the Belle Epoque of Deauville, Trouville and Cabourg, a line-up of exquisitely old-fashioned resorts which see themselves as the Nice, Cannes and Menton of the North.

But the British visitor is more likely to be in search of good food, the centrepiece of our long weekend near Caen. Normandy has some dull towns, but every one has an exciting restaurant. One of the growing attractions is learning how they do it.

A guaranteed way to master the subtleties of Norman cuisine



Less than half an hour from Caen, Somerset-born banker Roger Vickery is enjoying his restored Château du Tertre and the Taste of Calvados courses masterminded by his chef, Jackie Renard.

From the intricacies of foie gras terrine to the subtleties of decorative flowers made from turnip and spinach, 29-year-old M Renard makes it a hands-on experience.

His cooking has had several influences, although it is now strongly founded on the Norman tradition. He is half-Norman, half-Breton, married to Veronique from Alsace, and before coming to the Château du Tertre, he was chef at the Saint Paul, in St Paul de Vence, a centre of Provençal gastronomy. Remembering that "those

who love what they do, love to share it," M Renard reveals the chef's techniques during the course, his British guests hovering over every slice of the knife and shake of the pot.

While preparing duck livers, we learn that there is no such thing as "pâté de foie gras". It is not 100 per cent foie gras, it is pork fat and pork liver. There has been little goose liver since the 1970s, we are told. It is now invariably duck liver and we create the basic materials for a complex terrine.

We slowly work on the chef's table, surrounded by smells of hot bread and sounds of bubbling stockpots and sizzling frying pans, until M Renard realises the time, and the lesson becomes a demonstration.

Mr Vickery says: "There has always been too much of the 'we'll show you how to do that when you're a big boy'. We try to give clients the nearest thing to a failproof system and the knack of good cooking." It certainly tastes wonderful.

He is particularly proud of his collection of fine Calvados: "On the same level as Cognac and Armagnac". The chateau is the starting point of La Route des Grands Calvados — and a new understanding of Norman cuisine.

WILLY NEWLANDS

□ The author was a guest of Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) and P&O Ferries. The Taste of Calvados cookery course costs from £565, including ferry fare.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 27

**BISTABLE**  
(c) Having two stable states, as, for example, with many chemicals. "Timothy is bistable. When he's asleep and when he's unconscious. Unfortunately he's unconscious only on Friday nights."

**USUCAPTION**  
(c) The acquisition of property by right of long possession and enjoyment. A legal term, from the Latin for "capture by use". In the average household the bathroom is considered to be owned, by right of usucaption, by the youngest female adult, and the telephone by the oldest female child.

**FUTTOCK**  
(c) A particular wooden component in the structure of a ship, too complicated to explain without a diagram. But fundamentally a crooked timber in a wooden ship. A ridiculous and suggestive word. If you have a keen yachting or otherwise nautical chum, make a point of greeting him/her: "And how

are your futtocks these days, old timer?"

**NOYADE**  
(c) Mass execution by drowning, as in revolutionary France. The technique was

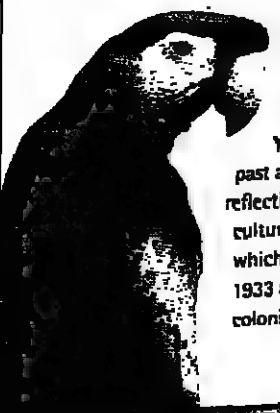
invented by a "monster of ferocity" named Carrier, and involved people being shut up in the hold of a ship, which was then scuttled in the Loire. This was called "Carrier's vertical deportation".

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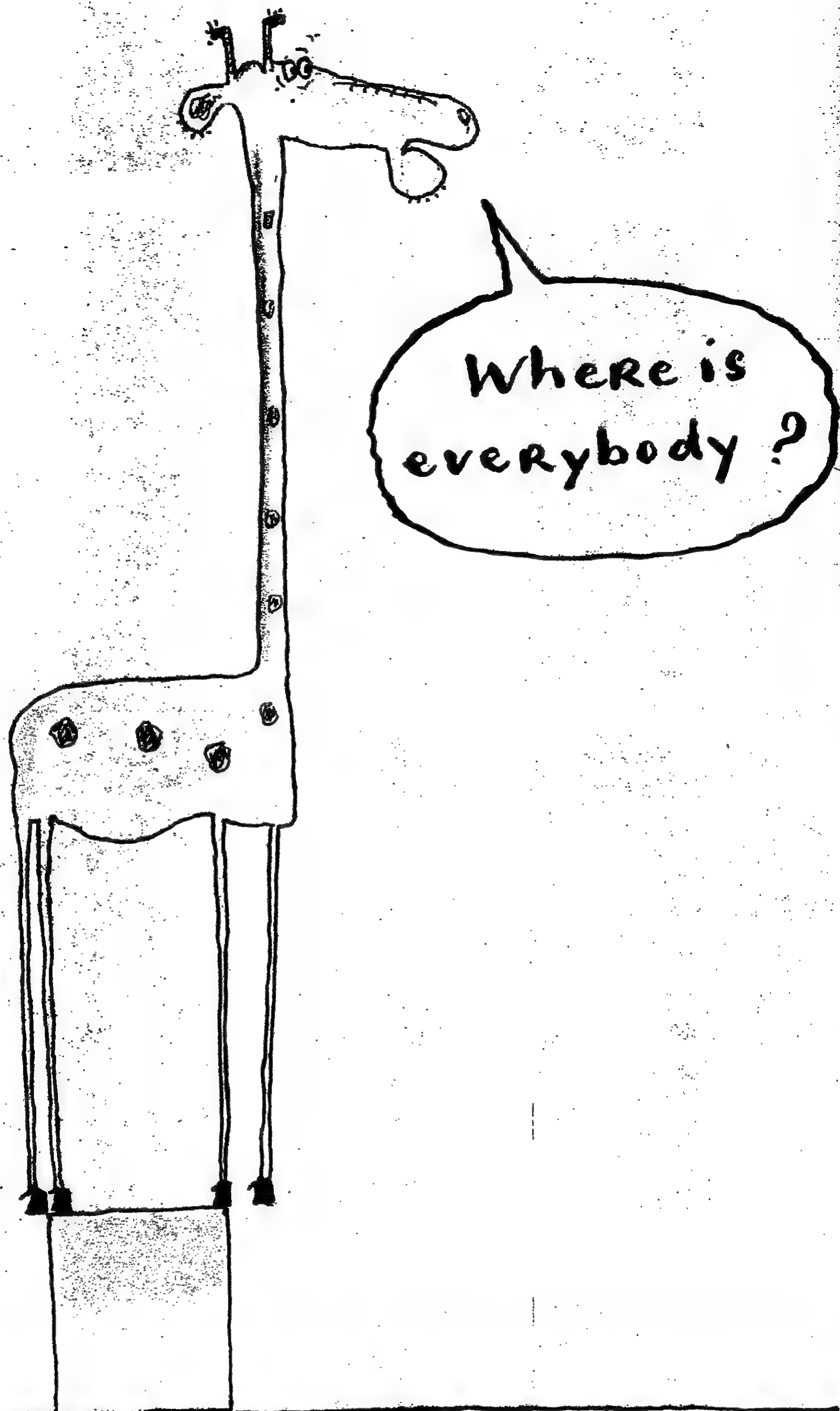






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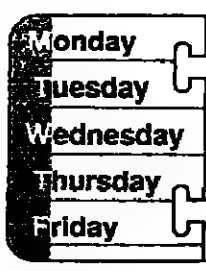
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**STOCK MARKET 28**  
Michael Clark on a difficult week for City traders



**WORKING WEEK 27**  
Looking after number one for a living



**SPORT 42-48**  
Football nomad in search of highest honours

**THE HIDDEN ASSET OF KIELDER**  
Page 27

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook SATURDAY NOVEMBER 11 1995



Little devils John Harris (right), chairman of Alba, the hi-fi group, celebrates the acquisition of the Dirt Devil vacuum-cleaner distributor, with his finance director Andrew Rose. Alba is to pay around £1.35 million in cash for Dirt Devil, which had sales of £7 million last year

## Customers may have to share British Gas loss

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

CUSTOMERS may have to share the pain of the possible £1 billion losses that British Gas will suffer from the huge and unprofitable contracts the company has with North Sea gas producers, the industry regulator says.

The result would be higher gas bills or less benefit to consumers from the opening up of the domestic market to competition in 1998.

The suggestion, in a consultative document from the Office of Gas Regulation, follows tears voiced by Clare

Spottiswoode, the Director-General, that British Gas could face financial collapse if it is required to bear the entire burden of the contracts, taken out years ago when the company had no fear of losing its domestic monopoly.

Those contracts, on a take-or-pay basis, require British Gas to pay the producers whether or not their product is used. The coming of competition has brought other groups into the market with promises to undercut British Gas on price once they are allowed to.

Free competition is being brought in by stages. Next April half a million homes in the South West will be able to choose between gas suppliers. This will be extended to two million in the South a year later, and nationwide a year after. There have been predic-

tions of gas bills falling by as much as 25 per cent as new entrants seek market share.

But the gas supply contracts, creating a "gas bubble" of unwanted product, will still bear down on British Gas, which is trying to renegotiate with the suppliers.

Ms Spottiswoode, who is required to maintain British Gas as a financially sound business as well as protecting the consumer, suggested last month that the City had underestimated the risk to the company, prompting a fall in the gas price. Since then all the parties have been trying to find a way out. But Ofgas has now, for the first time, suggested that consumers might bear some of the burden.

This solution was immediately rejected by consumer bodies. Ian Powe, director of

the Gas Consumers Council, said: "We're alarmed that Ofgas should even consider compelling consumers to pay high prices to relieve British Gas of losses associated with long-term contracts."

The company welcomed the idea. Mike Alexander, managing director of British Gas Supply, said: "It is crucial to the introduction of fair and stable competition that restrictions which apply solely to British Gas can be lifted quickly when competition is under way."

The regulator says the price control formula governing how much British Gas can charge, which expires next April, could be used to relieve the company of the potential loss. But Ofgas is a long way from finding a definite method, and is inviting comment from interested parties.

One solution might be to apply a much less stringent price cap, for perhaps three years. All parties accept that competition will not arrive overnight for domestic gas users, and British Gas would then have a "window" to charge higher prices and so claw back some of its potential losses before being undercut by its new rivals.

Two difficulties remain. It is impossible at this stage to quantify the losses the company faces because they depend on the future price of gas. In addition, as accepted by Ofgas, a judgment must be made on how much of the pain should fall on customers and how much on the company, and on its shareholders.

Tempus, page 28  
No guarantee, page 31

### BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3223.4	(-18.3)
Yield	4.04%	
FT-SE 100 Div	1732.28	(-7.14)
Nikkei	17643.36	(+22.55)
New York	4865.19	(-8.04)
Dow Jones	591.58	(-1.28)
S&P Composite	591.58	(-1.28)
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(0.00%)
Long Bond	107 1/2	(0.07%)
Yield	6.32%	(6.28%)
3-mth Eurodollar	5 1/4%	(0.00%)
Libor 3m	107 1/2	(0.07%)
Libor 6m	107 1/2	(0.07%)
Libor 12m	107 1/2	(0.07%)
New York	1.5769	(1.5769)
London	1.5761	(1.5761)
DM	2.2247	(2.2247)
FF	7.5735	(7.5735)
SP	1.7887	(1.7887)
Yen	158.96	(158.96)
S Index	83.8	(84.1)
London	1.4125	(1.4113)
DM	4.8705	(4.8679)
FF	1.1350	(1.1350)
SP	100.51	(100.51)
S Index	85.7	(85.0)
Tokyo close Yen	100.57	
Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$18.35	(\$18.35)
London close	\$398.95	(\$398.05)

\* denotes midday trading price

**Swalec anger**  
Welsh Water, forced by the Stock Exchange to disclose its intention to launch a takeover bid for South Wales Electricity, yesterday said that it would be unable to meet the Swalec board before the end of next week, at the earliest. The statement caused anger at Swalec. Page 26

## Rover pioneer killed in crash

By COLIN NARBROUGH

A YOUNG Rover executive who played the lead role in setting up a modern car industry in Bulgaria has been killed in a road accident yesterday. Philip Burley, 28, from South Wales, died in a head-on collision with a mini-bus while driving his BMW back from Austria to Bulgaria.

Mr Burley, a high-flyer who had joined Rover's business strategy department in 1985 under sponsorship from Cardiff Business School, was deputy managing director and external affairs director of Rodacar, the car assembly plant which Rover set up with Bulgaria's Daru group.

for Maestros, which opened at Varna on the Bulgarian Black Sea coast in September, was very much a product of Mr Burley's prodigious energy, skill and diplomacy.

The plant, 51 per cent owned by Rover, assembles kits from Rover's Cowley plant in Oxfordshire and is scheduled to produce 6,500 cars next year. In 1997, output is to be 10,000.

Mr Burley, a fluent Bulgarian speaker posted to Bulgaria in 1992, was one of the youngest members of the Institute of Directors and held the chairmanship of the Business in Bulgaria Association.

He had been regarded as being bound for a role at "the top of the motor industry".

## Unilever edges up in Europe

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

UNILEVER, the Anglo-Dutch foods and detergents company, revealed yesterday that it had failed to clean up in its European markets, reporting sales figures of £11.7 billion, up just 2 per cent on the third quarter of last year.

Unilever is still suffering from last year's disastrous launch of Persil Power. The company has not restored the market share lost after it was revealed that the product could damage clothes and was forced to relaunch the brand at the start of this year.

The company said sales of the reformulated Persil were improving in the UK, as was market share.

Profits in Europe as a whole

rose 6 per cent to £454 million, the hot summer ensuring booming ice cream sales in Northern Europe.

Overall, the company reported a 7 per cent increase in third-quarter profits to £768 million yesterday, on the back of a good performance in North America.

Unilever's performance in the rest of the world was disappointing, with profits for the third quarter growing by only £2 million to £191 million.

The City reacted positively to the results, relieved that profits were towards the upper end of expectations. The shares closed at £12.11, up 21p. The third interim dividend is 8 per cent higher at 7.05p.

## Union counts up City block votes

By PHILIP BASSETT  
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S pension funds now hold a quarter of all the shares in the UK's top 30 companies, according to a new analysis of shareholdings today.

The study, carried out by the GMB trade union, says its results confirm the operation of a new "block vote" in British industry, over which ordinary shareholders and employees have little if any direct control.

Leaders of the Apex white-collar section of the GMB union, which holds its annual sectional conference in Scarborough today, publish figures which look at pension fund shares as a percentage of total share capital in the top 30 UK

companies ranked by market capitalisation. The GMB analysis ranks Barclays bank as having the greatest pension fund holding, with 42.3 per cent of its shares held by fund companies.

Second is BAT, with 33.1 per cent, followed by Glaxo, at 31.8 per cent, and then BTR (30.9 per cent), Shell (30.7 per cent) and Marks & Spencer with 30.4 per cent.

Among the top 30 companies, those with the lowest proportion of shares held by pension funds are Vodafone, with 3.9 per cent, National Power (4.4 per cent) and Abbey National and Tesco, each with 6.9 per cent.

The GMB says that among the top 30 companies, their directors hold a total of only 0.04 per cent of the shares, reducing

both their involvement and their influence.

Sam Keating, who takes over this weekend as head of the GMB's 80,000-strong white-collar section, said: "There is a new block vote in operation in British industry — the block vote of the faceless pension fund managers."

The GMB says the pension fund vote is owned by ordinary people who have no say in how it is cast. Linking the analysis directly to the Confederation of British Industry's annual conference, which begins in Birmingham tomorrow, Mr Keating said: "The pension funds did nothing when the fat cats cashed in their share options. These figures show that the real owners can force them to become accountable."

## Court setback for importer

By COLIN NARBROUGH

THE Port of Felixstowe, part of the global empire of Li Ka-Shing, the Hong Kong billionaire, has won the first round in a legal battle over its right to restrain £100,000 worth of lentils owned by a small London importer.

In the High Court yesterday, Mr Justice Clarke ruled that Felixstowe, Britain's biggest container port, was correct in its interpretation of its right to exercise lien over the 300 tonnes of split red lentils owned by A Poortman, the family-owned food importer.

The right to restrain goods, even when, as in Poortman's case, the importer has paid for them in full, is included in the terms and conditions of most ports in Britain.

Felixstowe restrained the cargo from Turkey two months ago to offset £80,000 of debts incurred by Euronave, a shipping line based in Antwerp which had gone into liquidation. Peter Bennett, deputy managing director of Felixstowe, who said that port users are fully aware of the terms and conditions, expressed sympathy for Poortman, but said the court had "vindicated" his company's position.

With the court finding against it on the initial point at the preliminary hearing yesterday, Poortman will next week seek rulings on other points.

A key issue on which Poortman will continue its challenge against the restraint of its goods will be whether the port's terms and conditions can actually be brought into play.

Poortman's legal advisers take the view that such terms and conditions are not generally known to the users of the port and that the importer has no contract with the port that recognises them.

Robert Burkeman, a Poortman director, said his company was not prepared to comment on the case, as the legal action will continue.

## WEEKEND MONEY



**31**  
Anne Ashworth on the virtues of persistency

**29**  
The risks of giving away your home

**30**  
March to a regular beat. New accounts for small savers

**35**  
Nordic stock market legends. The top trusts

**36**  
Picture emerges of an art market revival



POUR MONSIEUR  
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS  
**CHANEL**



**By MARTIN BARROW**

Welsh Water has indicated that it would be prepared to offer about £10.20, valuing Swalec at little more than £1

The two companies bitterly disagree over the scale of cost savings that can be achieved by sharing a head office, and combining maintenance and billing services. Analysts estimate that up to £35 million can be saved; Welsh Water does not dispute the estimate, but

Yesterday, Welsh Water said: "People in Wales believe Swalec will be taken over, one way or another. They would rather it was taken over by a Welsh company than an American one."



## BY PHILIP PANGALOS

**Tempus, page 28**

**BY A CORRESPONDENT**

On Day 101 of the trial, he told the jury that some of his co-directors had told lies to the

**Andrew Lloyd Webber**  
on *Express Newspapers*  
- *Business, The Sunday*  
*Times tomorrow*

THE TIMES SATU

# LOC

**Victoria McKee**  
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Monday  
Tuesday  
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company, as C&W's partner to plan the rest of the day in London.

Ms. Bostwick, the dynamic development director for Susan Dark, says days like these are up to the day to leave the office and Meridian Lion Square at 7.45am. The PA 15 months.

"I'd been working for 15 months."

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Ms. Brier has always been able to identify the advantage — and had a pair before being

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Kielder Reservoir is  
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This week, however, the company and Kielder Reservoir were both in the news. Freshwater is buying 100,000 gallons from the reservoir to stave off starvation in the Yorkshire street. L'Hymanais des Eaux has been the goal-head of the

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Maxwell group did not need to fail, says Kevin

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Naigel seeks fine over monetary unit

Libby returns to pro

IR Data setback

Lever quits Germa

RN sales cleared

in against Lloyd

POST RATES

Starts Express

A WORKING WEEK FOR: KATHRYN BISHOP and SUE ABBOTT

# Looking after number one for a living

Victoria McKee meets two PAs who cite the importance of old-fashioned values as they look after high-powered women executives

Monday  
Tuesday  
Wednesday  
Thursday  
Friday

KATHRYN BISHOP did not attend the cocktail party in Bonn this week to celebrate the closing of a big deal between her company, Cable and Wireless, and Veba, a German "Goliath" of a telecommunications company, as she puts it, which is now C&W's partner in Europe. But she helped to plan it, and enjoyed a party with the rest of the team who put the deal together in London earlier this year.

Ms Bishop, PA (personal assistant) to the dynamic Director of Strategic Development for Cable and Wireless Europe, Susan Dark, was working 12 and 14-hour days like her boss in the months leading up to the deal. But she usually manages to leave the offices Cable and Wireless and Mercury share in the capital's Red Lion Square by 5pm after getting in at 7.45am. The two have worked together for 15 months.

"I'd been abroad for a long time working for Michelin, the tyre company, in Nigeria, so there wasn't any past history between us," explains Ms Bishop, who has a degree in modern languages from Lancaster University and has always tried to find jobs to make use of her knowledge of French, Italian and Spanish. "I'd been PA to the MD there, who was French, like all the heads of department, and, with Nigeria being an anglophone country, I was called on to do a lot of translation. When I came back, I was just temping with a bilingual agency. I said I wanted something unusual, so they mentioned telecommunications, very dynamic lady and business development in Western Europe which sounded intriguing. Susan and I hit it off right away, but the irony is that we spend a lot of time communicating with Germany now and I don't have that language."

Ms Bishop, 37, who is single, says she has always had wanderlust and has been able to indulge it. "I've always loved an adventure — I went off to Italy for a year, and had a year in Paris on my own as an au pair before university." Being born in Kenya to parents in the Colonial Service, and brought up abroad, partly in Lebanon, might have contributed to her sense of "never feeling particularly at home in this country", although "I'm profoundly English". Her current job allows her to exercise her wanderlust in a more controlled manner from time to time, while expanding her international knowledge daily.

"My work involves co-ordinating meetings, and video conferences, with people around the world, because we're a federation with lots of international partners. So there's a rewarding sense of bringing people together." She knows it is essential that the phones and faxes are staffed at all reasonable times. "I'm very aware of the first

impressions we give," she says, "and that the phone can't ring and ring here, or that I can't take long lunch hours to go shopping or gossip with girlfriends, leaving the office unattended."

As Ms Dark travels a great deal, Ms Bishop likes to think of herself now as "base camp", and is able to screen calls, co-ordinate diaries, make travel arrangements — and take the type of decisions she believes her boss would sanction, in her absence. She also gets involved in the hiring of subsidiary secretarial staff. Her own shorthand and typing abilities are not things she boasts about.

"I don't really think they're so important in my job," she says. "What is important in my job are the old-fashioned virtues of loyalty and trustworthiness, organisation and diplomacy, and the ability to think quickly — those are things that can't be taught."

"The way technology has taken over the working environment, lots of the bosses are now quite self-sufficient — they type their own letters, send their own faxes, make their own spreadsheets and produce their own slides for presentations. It's a far cry from years ago with the manager who could only hit the intercom."

"But what you cannot replace by machines is organising things, talking to people, explaining what is going on. So a secretary's role is no longer 'Take a letter, Miss Bishop' but has evolved to take on more administrative tasks — to foresee situations, to be more pre-emptive, to send out the right signals to people — to free the manager more."

Executive salaries are designed for executive responsibility, since executives do not claim overtime, but does Ms Bishop ever resent the discrepancy between her salary and that of her boss. "No," she says briskly. "I think I'm very well paid."

Sue Abbott, PA to Mary Spillane, managing director of Color Me Beautiful image consultants, also feels "I'm adequately remunerated for what I do in terms of my responsibility next to management responsibility".

Although her normal working hours are 8.45am to 5.30pm, she, too, takes on that sense of executive responsibility which all good executive secretaries have, admitting that "I'd never ask for time off in lieu of a late night or a weekend day spent working — but I also know that Mary is fair and flexible, and if I did ask for time off I'd get it. It works both ways."

There is a fair bit of weekend working in the image consulting business, with Ms Spillane last weekend making headlines for advising the Conservative Way Forward Group on its image at the invitation of Lord Parkinson. She advised them to "get real" by dressing down (the opposite of her advice to Liberal Democrat candidates last month, who were told they needed to dress more professionally).

Ms Abbott has been with her boss 11 years — long enough to know



Sue Abbott, left, is PA to Mary Spillane, managing director of Color Me Beautiful; Kathryn Bishop provides a "base camp" for when her boss is away



instinctively which calls she would have antipathy towards and which to let through. "I screen all her calls — nobody will go through to her straight away, because she doesn't have time. I think I can read her well," she says. In addition to the flood of inquiries about political party dressing, and the regular corporate calls from companies wanting to update their image, as Christmas nears there are the inevitable queries about party dressing.

"Then there are the routine Friday afternoon calls, when I think journalists have got together in the pub, to ask if the type of knickers you wear says something about your personality."

Ms Spillane may be asked for comments on anything from what the colour red means to whether Labour candidates should wear red ties, and Ms Abbott tries to make sure she is adequately informed in advance on each request.

As two working mothers — Ms Spillane's daughters are 12 and 10, while Ms Abbott's daughter is nearly 21 and her son is 17 — they met when Ms Abbott was thinking of getting back to work and Ms Spillane needed more help after her first child was born. They've been together 11 years, and have seen the business change in that time from a one-woman band

operated from Ms Spillane's home to an international consultancy with a London office and separate training centre and 1,000 consultants in 28 countries.

"I worked part-time at first, and when Mary started writing her books — *The Complete Style Guides* — I did all her typing. That was when we really started to get to know each other, with the stresses of deadlines and long hours."

Ms Abbott, 48, who did a secretarial course at the City of London College, previously worked at the BBC, and when she left to have her children had been "senior secretary to the

head of presentation" at White City. "I'd always preferred jobs that weren't standard issue like accountancy, law, solicitors' offices — you can get them, but they're so dull." She was put in touch with Mary via the local photocopy shop which both frequented.

At the BBC, she recalls, "I used to have someone underneath me to open post and type speeches." Now, she does everything. "I find it useful to wear trouser suits because I never know what I'll be doing" — changing tanks on the water-cooler, unloading deliveries or going to a seminar with her boss.

She looks cool, calm and competent in the peacock blue suit and is aware of dressing in her appropriate colours so as not to let the business down, "even though

Mary never insisted on that, or pressured me into it in any way."

Ms Spillane appreciates Ms Abbott's influence in every aspect of her life. "If I've travelled and the systems break down domestically — the nannies who've cut fingers off or don't pick up the kids, or whatever — Sue has handled everything. I can always rely on her to sort out domestic crises in a way you couldn't rely on a husband, family or friends."

Ms Abbott agrees with Ms Bishop that the traditional secretarial skills are not the key factor. "It's an ability to get on with people, a sense of humour — and discretion. And I still believe that, despite all the technology we work with, if you work as a PA, what you're actually doing is looking after the person."

## HIDDEN ASSETS

### Putting a new complexion on a white elephant

Lindsay Cook discovers a little-known source of liquidity for a water company

Every geography student knows that the Kielder Reservoir is the largest in Europe, but until this week they might not have known that it was owned by Northumbrian Water. Even some shareholders might have had their doubts as it does not get a mention or a picture reference in the company's 1995 annual report.

This week, however, the company and Kielder Reservoir were both in the news. Yorkshire Water is buying millions of gallons from the reservoir to stave off standpipes in the Yorkshire streets and Lyonnaise des Eaux was given the go-ahead by the Department of Trade to bid for Northumbrian Water.

A thousand tanker loads a day are to be transported from Long Newton Reservoir, which is served by the Kielder, and taken on the

journey to a reservoir near Leeds in drought-stricken Yorkshire.

The Newcastle-based water company must be thanking the foresight of its predecessors, because the deal to sell up to six million gallons a week to its neighbouring water company is bringing in £1 million a week. And that is with the company generously supplying the water to Yorkshire at cost — just £5 a tanker load — to avoid rota cuts in Calderdale and Kirkcaldy.

It is probably not surprising that Northumbrian has not promoted the reservoir because, until this summer's drought, it was regarded as a £167 million white elephant. That was the cost of con-

struction of Kielder, which was opened in 1982 by the Queen. It was funded by grants from the EEC, the European Investment Bank, British government grants to assist less-favoured areas and customer charges levied by the then Northumbrian Water Authority. Since then, it has received grants from the Sports Council, the English Tourist Board and the Countryside Commission.

The reservoir, which has a surface area of 2,684 acres, will hold 44 billion gallons of water. Currently it has about 40 billion gallons — its deepest point is 170 feet — and it is also used as a water sports centre. It is a fishery of international importance and this year the English

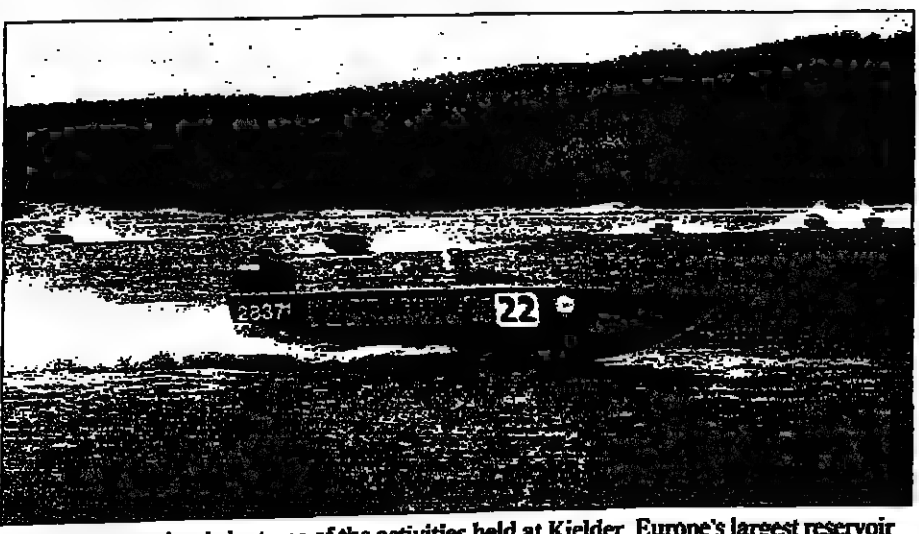
Confederation of Flyfishers held their national finals around the 27 miles of Kielder shoreline.

Some 50 boats are used to fish the water, a ferry takes visitors round the reservoir, and a yacht club and a boating club are well-established there. British water ski champions use it to train on, marathons are run round it, there is an annual Kielder Challenge Walk and horse-riding and commando training take place on the shores and in the surrounding forest.

Not surprisingly, Kielder has become the largest tourist attraction in Northumbria, with some 300,000 visitors to the man-made lake and its wildlife centres each year. However, swimming is not allowed for safety reasons.

The reservoir's main job is to make sure that there is enough water in the county, which has uneven rainfall. The idea was first mooted in 1974 before the previous big drought year of 1976. "It underpins the water supply for the North East. We had no hosepipe bans or restrictions in the summer. Without it we probably would not be able to help out Yorkshire," said Alistair Baker of Northumbrian Water.

While the reservoir and its dam are a source of British pride, they could soon be under the ownership of Lyonnaise des Eaux, the French company, which this week heard it would have to make only minor price cuts to customers if its proposed takeover bid goes ahead.



Speedboat racing is just one of the activities held at Kielder, Europe's largest reservoir

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DAILY EXPRESS, 1st NOVEMBER 1995

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# American debt wrangle unnerves investors

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S game of brinkmanship with the US national debt provided a nail-biting time for investors on the London stock market.

Government securities and equities were struggling to contain hefty losses at one stage, fearing another sizeable shakeout on Wall Street. In the event, the Dow Jones industrial average behaved itself, enabling London to close above its worst.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 18.2 down at 3,523.4, having been almost 20 points off earlier in the session. The rise on the week was 23 points.

But there can be no disguising the fact that it has been another difficult week for traders, made all the more unpalatable by the prospect that they must wait two more weeks before the Chancellor unveils his Budget proposals.

Many of the big securities houses will have suffered further trading losses this week and those that have managed to break even have been fortunate and will not doubt be breathing a sigh of relief.

For the best part, most of the market-makers will have attempted to maintain level positions, unwilling to move long or short in case market sentiment shifts in the opposite direction.

The difficulty facing them was again reflected in the low turnover numbers, with just 995 million shares changing hands. There was the usual bout of takeover speculation, which provided the excuse for a sharp mark-up in those shares. This time the focus of interest was Zeneca, up 20p at £12.30, after briefly touching £12.50, on turnover of less than 2.5 million shares.

In the past, its name has been linked with Roche, the Swiss pharmaceutical group. Sandoz has also been tipped as a potential suitor.

The insurance sector was a flat market with Royal Insurance losing a further 12p at 36.2p after disappointing third-quarter figures on Thursday. General Accident also took a tumble, losing 19p at 63.4p during transactions involving less than 100,000 shares. This served to highlight some of the problems being faced by market-makers.

Ladbroke continued to reflect on Thursday's profits warning with a fall of 7p to a new low of 125p. The group says that the National Lottery was continuing to take a toll



The National Lottery remains a worry for Ladbroke and Rank

on profits from its betting arm. Brokers have responded by slashing their pre-tax profit estimates for the full year by about £25 million to £125 million. They say the outlook for the group remains gloomy.

The impact of the National Lottery is also being felt by Rank Organisation, Britain's biggest bingo operator, with the shares holding their own

Firecrest leapt 91p, to 153p, after landing exclusive UK rights to market and distribute the Digiphone software package, which lets Internet users telephone anywhere in the world via the Internet for the price of a local call. Camelot Corporation, maker of Digiphone, will take a near 10 per cent stake in Firecrest.

yesterday at 408p, but down 15p on the week.

Elsewhere in the leisure sector, Allied Leisure remained static at 41p after announcing plans to acquire Granada's ten-pin bowling business for almost £20 million.

The deal will be funded via a two-for-three rights issue at 34p, raising £15.8 million. A further £7.2 million has been made available by new banking facilities. Allied says the

has been served by the recent news that Microsoft had sold its stake in rival Dorling Kindersley, 1p firmer at 51p, after earlier weakness.

Unilever, the Anglo-Dutch food and household products group, climbed 2p to £12.11 on the back of third-quarter figures, in line with market forecasts.

The main thrust to profits came from the sale of Walls ice cream during the hot summer. Brokers expect profits for the

full year to grow from £2.38 billion to £2.5 billion.

WH Smith jumped 17p to 412p, with John Menzies adding 8p at 633p. The newspaper wholesalers have come up with a plan to head off complaints from the supermarket chains.

Earlier this month, Tesco said it would try to make its own distribution arrangements with newspaper publishers. This would have punched a gaping hole in the profits of the wholesalers.

An hour before the official start of trading, Bensons Crisps threw the market into confusion by announcing that it knew of no reason for the recent rise in its share price. It finished 1p down at 25p. Earlier this month the price hit a low of 16p but has been subsequently revived by a series of bullish City presentations.

The company has told brokers that pressure from rising costs has eased and that price rises to supermarkets are holding. It is hoping to break even at the year end after making losses of £600,000 in the first half.

QILIT-EDGED: Prices suffered early losses, reflecting concern after publication of the latest CBI distributive trades survey showing a sharp rise in retail spending last month. This was in spite of reassurance from economists that the upwards movement was just a blip and that the overall economic picture remained gloomy.

Sentiment was further depressed by worries about the US budget.

But after falls of more than 1p were recorded, the bargain-hunters made a welcome return, enabling prices to close above their worst.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt touched a low for the day of £106.17/16 before reducing the deficit to just five ticks at £107/16. A total of 61,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 fell 1/8 to 99 1/8, while, at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 lost a similar amount at £103.

NEW YORK: Shares remained under pressure at midday amid growing concern over the outcome of the debt-ceiling wrangling in Washington.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 9.04 at 4,855.19.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 4855.19 (-9.04)  
S&P Composite 591.98 (-1.28)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 17843.56 (+22.52)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 9411.85 (+58.98)

Amsterdam:  
EEX Index 454.75 (+2.03)

Sydney:  
AO 2126.3 (-5.5)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 2172.17 (-20.65)

Singapore:  
Strait Times 2004.89 (-20.03)

Brussels:  
General 1780.47 (+0.99)

Paris:  
CAC-40 1843.04 (+9.59)

Zurich:  
SIX Gen 696.50 (-2.50)

London:  
FT 30 2576.3 (-14.7)  
FT 100 3523.4 (-18.2)  
FTSE Mid 250 3022.1 (-6.5)  
FTSE-A 350 1754.5 (-7.8)  
FTSE Europe 100 1410.17 (-1.13)  
FT A-Share 1732.39 (-7.14)  
FT Non Financial 1836.26 (-5.41)  
FT Fixed Interest 112.62 (-0.39)  
FT Govt Secs 93.94 (+0.28)  
S&P 500 2647.76  
USM (Daxster) 186.29 (+0.72)  
USM 1.755 (-0.0032)  
German Mark 2.246 (-0.0097)  
Exchange Index 634.1 (-0.3)  
Bank of England official rate (4pm) 1.1862  
ECU 1.936  
ESPR 150.6 Sep (3.9%) Jan 1997-100  
RPIX 149.2 Sep (3.1%) Jan 1997-100

RIGHTS ISSUES

First Choice n/p (60) 1 1/2  
Quality SP n/p (535) 107  
Rhino Group n/p (12) 4 1/2  
Sordale Sol n/p (12) 10  
Spray VR n/p (330) 81  
Wellington n/p (100) 4 1/2

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:  
Unipol 710p (+83p)  
Arlow Stream 280p (+23p)  
Johnston 235p (+20p)  
Micro Focus 678p (+30p)  
Miles 368p (+17p)  
Smith 412p (+17p)  
Lennon 234p (+8p)  
Ranford 404p (+8p)  
Kunglinder 491p (+8p)

FALLS:  
Parkland 186p (-12)  
Royal 382p (-12p)  
Gen Accident 634p (-10p)  
Sun Alliance 357p (-9p)  
Legal & Gen 852p (-14p)  
BAT 535p (-11p)  
Mar 96 94.7  
Com Unior 485p (-10p)  
Cadbury Schwe 538p (-14p)  
Provident 800p (-14p)  
Lloyds Abbey 445p (-8p)

Closing Prices Page 41

Period	Open	High	Low	Set	Vol
FT-SE 100	3523.4	3579.0	3512.0	3523.0	995
Previous open interest: 4080					
FT-SE 250	3022.1	3078.0	2996.0	3023.0	100
Previous open interest: 3587					
Three Month Sterling	93.36	93.37	93.32	93.33	928
Previous open interest: 37730					
Three Mth Euro DM	166.30	166.32	166.28	166.31	91
Previous open interest: 39957					
Long Gilt	106.17	106.18	106.16	106.17	6274
Previous open interest: 14967					
Japanese Govt Bond	121.97	121.99	121.94	121.97	2270
Previous open interest: 21942					
Three month ECU	94.42	94.43	94.36	94.40	100
Previous open interest: 31532					
Euro Swiss Franc	97.43	97.48	97.43	97.45	1450
Previous open interest: 5456					
Italian Govt Bond	102.00	102.04	102.02	102.01	2620
Previous open interest: 48116					

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Japanese Govt Bond	121.97	121.99	121.94	121.97	2270
Previous open interest: 21942					
Three month ECU	94.42	94.43	94.36	94.40	100
Previous open interest: 31532					
Euro Swiss Franc	97.43	97.48	97.43	97.45	1450
Previous open interest: 5456					
Italian Govt Bond	102.00	102.04	102.02	102.01	2620
Previous open interest: 48116					

Period	Open	High	Low	Set	Vol
FT-SE 100	3523.4	3579.0	3512.0	3523.0	995
Previous open interest: 4080					
FT-SE 250	3022.1	3078.0	2996.0	3023.0	100
Previous open interest: 3587					
Three Month Sterling	93.36	93.37	93.32	93.33	928
Previous open interest: 37730					
Three Mth Euro DM	166.30	166.32	166.28	166.31	91
Previous open interest: 39957					
Long Gilt	106.17	106.18	106.16	106.17	6274
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# HIT OR MYTH 33

Endowments under the spotlight

# WEEKEND MONEY

## LONG-LOST 36

Pension plans that could disappoint



## Putting a price on a long life

Marianne Curphey looks at the Government's struggle to define its role in long-term care

The Government is being urged to clarify the role of the State in paying for long-term nursing care amid fears that elderly people could be presented with huge bills in their twilight years.

Age Concern and the Law Society have identified a growing number of retired people trying to transfer their home and assets to their children to avoid their life savings being swallowed up in residential fees.

With an ageing population, Age Concern fears local authorities will come under increasing pressure to recover money from people who have made themselves deliberately homeless, penniless and dependent on state care.

Some pensioners have already begun transferring savings in order to qualify for housing benefit. As Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, prepares his Budget, he is looking at plans under which the Government would pay nursing fees, but not accommodation costs, to elderly people living in private residential homes.

He could also double the £8,000 savings threshold that cuts off state help with nursing fees, a move that Age Concern would welcome.

But although these measures would help to assuage

mounting middle-class dismay over pensioners who have to sell their homes to pay for care, Mr Clarke still has to tackle the question of where the law stands on the issue.

Many elderly people are angry because they feel they are being "cheated" out of free residential care after a lifetime of paying taxes. They feel justified in expecting the State to pick up the bill towards the end of their life.

Age Concern says that the number of calls it receives on the subject has risen from 800 to 4,000 in just six months, and believes this is "just the tip of the iceberg".

Sally Greengross, director-general of Age Concern, said: "Many older people feel that the current means-test system leaves them 'asset stripped'. Most older people cannot meet the full cost of their care, and most of the 28 per cent of those in care who do fully fund themselves do so through the sale of property."

However, the Law Society gave a warning this week that there was "no foolproof way of avoiding the value of the home being taken into account in means-testing" when state support was being assessed.

Currently, it says, there are no precedents for courts chasing frail old ladies for cash. However, "it is unclear how far authorities will go in order

to pursue contributions they believe to be owing to them", it adds. The Society fears elderly people are being encouraged to sign away their possessions without being properly alerted to the consequences.

As the number of long-term NHS beds have fallen, the private sector has filled the gap.

Independent homes can cost up to £350 a week for accommodation and up to £500 for nursing care.

Age Concern has been discussing the option of introducing personal insurance plans for old age with the insurance industry.

Younger people are starting to accept they may not have the security of state support in their old age, but it is too late for retired people to start such plans.

In addition, social change has removed some of the family help on which elderly people have depended.

"No one knows what effect divorce or cohabitation will have on the informal network of carers, particularly women, who sacrificed their careers to look after elderly relatives," Ms Greengross said.

"In France, Germany and Singapore families have a fiscal and legal obligation to their relatives."



Many elderly people feel "cheated" out of free residential care after a lifetime of working and paying taxes

## A helping hand — if you qualify

By law, the local authority must carry out an assessment of your ability to pay if you are seeking help from it to pay for residential care. It will take into account your income and savings.

Age Concern advises that you will be expected to pay the full cost of care if you have more than £8,000 in capital (property, savings and investments), though this ceiling may be raised in the Budget, possibly to £16,000.

For a permanent admission to the home (not a temporary stay), your home will be counted as part of your capital unless it is lived in by:

- ☐ your partner or spouse
- ☐ a relative aged 60 or over, or by a relative aged under 60 and incapacitated
- ☐ a child under 16 whom you are liable to maintain.

In these circumstances, the local authority must ignore the value of the property. It has the discretion to ignore the value of the property if someone else lives there, for example a relative aged under 60, someone who has looked after you or a friend who is aged over 60.

If no one lives in the property, the local authority must take its value into account. If it arranges a place for you in a home, and you have little other income or savings, the local authority can create a legal charge on the value of your property. This means that from the day you enter the home, the local authority can make a claim on the value of your home, and recover the money owed to it for fees when the property is sold.

The local authority cannot insist that you sell your house in order to pay for the care, but it can take steps to recover contributions and, in assessing ability to pay, may take into account property that has been given away for the purpose of avoiding means-testing.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

Weekend Money is edited by Annie Ashworth

### BUDGET WATCH

TAX CONCESSIONS for those prepared to make provision in middle life for their care in old age are now widely expected in the Budget.

Geoffrey Watson, pensions partner at Binder Hamlyn, the accountant, suggests the Chancellor might allow tax relief on premiums for long term care. The Chancellor could allow tax relief on premiums paid by relations, as well as by the insured individual.

The tax team at KPMG, the accountant, predicts more far-reaching measures, one allowing employees to save for care fees through their pension schemes.

Richard Malone, president of the Pensions Management Institute, would welcome such a step, seeing it as a "welcome breaking down of the boundaries between care insurance and pensions."

## Perils of the giveaway

Transferring property or assets to your children is fraught with difficulty, the Law Society says.

First, you must clarify whether it is an outright gift or a loan, whether you expect to receive anything in return and, if so, on what terms.

If you expect to live rent-free in a house you have given to your children, who pays for the insurance and upkeep: what happens if the recipient dies before you, or becomes involved in divorce or bankruptcy proceedings? In either case, the money or property could end up belonging to somebody else.

Equally, the donor and recipient could fall out, or the donor be moved prematurely into care so the recipient can live in the house themselves.

Elderly people often want to avoid the worry and responsibility

of home ownership, but the Law Society says this can be done by making an Enduring Power of Attorney, rather than making a full transfer.

Age Concern says the really thorny issue is "deliberate deprivation" — when someone knowingly gives away assets, or sells them at less than their market value, to qualify for benefit.

These assets can be income — say, an annuity — or capital, such as savings in building society accounts and stocks and shares.

The local authority could decide that you have deliberately deprived yourself of money which could have been used to pay for care, in which case it may calculate your contribution as though you still had those assets.

In law, a local authority is allowed to recover money

from the people to whom you gave your assets if you enter a nursing home within six months of transferring them and it believes you were trying to avoid paying your contribution towards fees.

Sally Greengross of Age Concern fears that as the number of elderly people increases and local authorities become strapped for cash, council officials may be more prepared to go to court over transfers more than six months in advance. She advises getting legal advice before any transfer.

The Law Society says it is "unclear" how far authorities will go. Few have threatened to use insolvency proceedings to recover debt, but this may be because of a lack of expertise or fear of bad publicity.

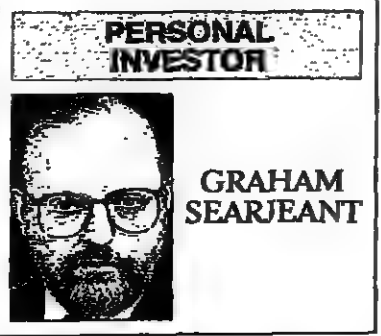
MARIANNE CURPHEY

## Profits of conflict

At two extremes of the kingdom, private investors in privatised utilities will watch keenly next week for talks that could quintuple the money they subscribed five or six years ago. Northumbrian Water and Swalec are the latest candidates in a land-slide of utility takeover bids. It is already set to sweep away half the regional electricity companies and may now seep into the water sector. It would seem daft to sniff at the handy cheques arriving for mostly tiny holdings. Yet many small investors do. They are the ones who believed in a political dream that died.

The dream was that sales of utilities to customers and employees would identify their interests with the success of special companies we all use and build a private sector consensus. Lots of investors took a quick profit but more millions of us stayed. Those that backed electricity rather than gas have done well. But like employee shareholders, many of whom lost their jobs, they soon came to be treated as an eccentric nuisance rather than pioneers of a new age.

Instead, privatised utilities tried to make themselves as much like conventional companies as possible, beholden to the dictates of the City fund managers who rapidly came to own most of their shares. Consumer interests were increasingly left to regulators. This simplified the way managers need to think. But lapsing the ideal has converted a recipe for consensus into a recipe for conflict. Investing in safe, steady world of utilities has become a political minefield, in which spectacular returns alternate with sequestration of business



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

es, bars on new activities and threats of levies to remove "excess" profits or cash.

The essence of regulation was to set only minimum standards to guard against monopoly or encourage competition. But regulators who do that are now seen as weak. Others, as at Ofgas, have become antagonistic ideological purists. By the time British Gas needed public support, however, it did not even try to mobilise nearly two million neglected and fed-up small investors.

This year, the conflict between customers and shareholders polarised as never before when bans on hostile water and electricity bids were lifted. This was supposed to allow market forces to unseat bad managers. But boards had no trouble doing that before and no bidder has claimed this as a motive.

Rather, the threat of takeover has raised the power of fund managers and obliged boards to treat the minimum demands of regulators as a maximum obligation. The water regulator has

managed to establish the principle, pioneered in a rough and ready way at North West Water, that extra profits from outperforming its targets should be shared, systematically if unequally, between customers and shareholders. Lyonnaise des Eaux's pursuit of Northumbrian Water shows the idiocies that arise when the social contract implied by customers owning a lot of the shares breaks down. The Water Act enabled Ofwat, the regulator, to negotiate minimum benefits for consumers before Lyonnaise was allowed to try to merge its North East Water subsidiary with Northumbrian. Two days later, Northumbrian revealed that it could offer much better savings to its customers by sharing out the benefits of outperforming Ofwat targets. But it would be mad to offer them.

Northumbrian cannot afford to offer customers more than Lyonnaise. The rest must go to shareholder benefits. In a bid situation, the minimum for customers becomes the maximum. So the deal struck by Ofwat will actually make Northumbrian's customers worse off. If a bid is agreed behind closed doors, customer and investors might never even know.

This will infuriate many of the 20,000 odd Northumbrian customers who are still shareholders and want to keep an independent regional company. But they are reflexes in this cold new age where conflict has been institutionalised and consensus dumped. At least they can cry all the way to the bank and leave newcomers to face the political flak.

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Gartmore European	1%	17.22%	88.53%
TR European (Henderson)	1%	14.08%	164.81%
Foreign & Colonial Eurofund	0.20%	9.64%	53.75%
Fleming Continental European	1%	7.33%	61.70%
Reinwort Euro Privatinvest	0.50%	1.77%	N/A

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\*Source: Macquarie, offer to offer, net income reinvested to 1.11.95. Performance since launch on 2.12.91 +107%. Past performance is no guarantee of future returns. The value of shares and the income from them may go down as well as up and you may get back less than you invested. If you call Fidelity and you receive advice, this will only relate to products offered by Fidelity Investment Services Limited as a member of its marketing group. If shares are purchased through a professional adviser, commission may be deducted from your contributions. The annual management charge for Fidelity's 1% is 1%, issued by Fidelity Investments International which acts as the manager of the Investment Trust Savings Plan and of the range of Fidelity Investment Trusts. Fidelity Investments International is regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority.

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## Regular saving can bring higher rewards, Helen Pridham finds



Take a step up: join the regulars and march towards better returns on your bank and building society savings accounts by putting aside a fixed amount each month

In recent years, many building societies have abandoned small savers. Even before larger societies started increasing their minimum deposits to ward off investors speculating on a takeover or conversion to bank status, there had been a trend towards requiring deposits of £100 or more. What is more, when their money is accepted, small savers are often paid derisively low interest rates. Their situation was not helped when the Government abolished the building society save-as-you-earn scheme in last year's Budget.

Some societies have now had second thoughts and are trying to attract back smaller investors who save regularly, by paying them top interest rates. Last month, the Nationwide launched its Bonus Saver account, which pays up to 6 per cent per annum, an interest rate which it otherwise only gives to savers with deposits of £25,000 or more. "We saw there was a gap in our range. Smaller savers had been squeezed out," the Nationwide admitted.

Earlier this year, Bradford & Bingley introduced its Monthly Saver account, which is currently paying 7.3 per cent on savings of £10 to £100 per month. This is more than it pays on any other account. There are also a handful of smaller societies that are similarly generous to regular savers.

Such regular savings accounts are particularly useful for young people

## Societies woo back army of small savers

saving up for a deposit on their first home, or for those other savers who want to build up a lump sum where it is risk-free and instantly accessible. To qualify for the top rates in a savings account, though, investors usually have to be disciplined about how much they save and try to leave

their money untouched. With Bradford & Bingley, for example, you must save the same amount each month by standing order for a year at a time. You can alter the amount or close your account on each anniversary without penalty, but if you withdraw money during the year, the

interest rate drops to 3.3 per cent. Nationwide allows its savers to vary the amounts they save between £20 and £1,000 a month, and to miss one payment a year. But if you make any withdrawals, you lose your bonus and the interest rate falls to 3 per cent. If no further withdrawals are made

for the following 12 months, however, the bonus is reinstated.

Additional rewards for those who qualify for the full 6 per cent in the first year are extra loyalty benefits, such as an extra £100 cashback if a mortgage is taken out with the society, or a 1 per cent APR discount on a Nationwide personal loan. The Norwich & Peterborough gives a free property valuation to its regular savers.

Other smaller societies offering savings accounts — which they are normally happy to operate on a postal basis — may allow a limited number of withdrawals per year without any loss of interest. Alternatively, as with the Scarborough, withdrawals may not be permitted, but an account can be closed at any time without penalty if the money is required and a new account opened immediately. The City & Metropolitan is the only society that places no limit on withdrawals.

Another avenue for small savers are tax-exempt special savings accounts (Tessas). Many banks and societies pay interest of 6 per cent or more on savings starting at £1 in Tessa. The interest on these accounts is tax-free if the money is left invested for five years, but you can get at your cash early and pay the tax and still be better off than in an ordinary instant access account. Look out for interest rate penalties, or withdrawal fees.

THE TOP BUILDING SOCIETY PAYERS				
Society	Account	Rate %	Savings Min/Max p.m.	Notes
Bradford & Bingley	Monthly Saver	7.3	10/100	No withdrawals permitted
Dudley	Bonus Builder II	7.07	10/100	No withdrawals permitted
Darlington	Pyramid II	7.0	1/100	No withdrawals permitted
Scarborough	Keepsafe Bond	7.0	15/150	No withdrawals permitted
Manfield	Regular Saver	6.0	5/150	2 withdrawals permitted p.a.
Nationwide	Bonus Saver	6.0	20/1000	6 withdrawals permitted p.a. but rate reduces to 3% No limit on withdrawals
City & Metro	Regular Savings	5.5	10/500	No limit on withdrawals
Holmesdale	Regular Savings	5.45	1/None	1 withdrawal permitted p.a.
Coventry	Bonus	5.0	1/150	2 withdrawals permitted p.a.
Loughborough	Subs Shares	5.0	1/500	1 withdrawal permitted p.a.

\*Local society only. Source: Moneyfacts

## Client finds that life means ten years

Leonard Waughman is not a happy man. Ten years ago, he took out what he believed to be a ten-year savings plan with Ambassador Life, now part of Abbey Life, on behalf of his wife, Sylvia. He was attracted by advertisements showing that small monthly investments could grow substantially over a long period of time.

The advertisements indicated that £20 a month invested for five years — a total investment of £1,200 — could produce a profit of £659. These illustrations were based on the past performance of the savings plan.

This figure was compared with the profits that would have been made by investing in building society or bank accounts. Saving through these methods would have produced profits of £178 and £255, respectively.

The advertisements also gave forward

WINNERS & LOSERS

projections in much smaller print, using growth rates of 7.5 per cent and 10 per cent. These showed that £20 a month invested over ten years would grow into £3,010 or £3,398, respectively.

This year, when his wife came to cash her plan in, Mr Waughman discovered that she had in fact taken out a whole-of-life savings plan, in which the money has

to be invested for 26 years before the plan can be encashed without any surrender penalties being applied. He found out that surrendering the policy would leave him with a return of £469 on £15 a month invested for ten years — a total investment of £1,800. The penalty would account for 20 per cent of the overall return made on his savings.

Mr Waughman said: "I was attracted by advertisements showing illustrations of past performance indicating substantial profits. But it now seems that the investment fund rules would have gobbled up practically all of the first year's investment."

"On investigation, I find that there are

multiple 'nibbles' at the investment, which inevitably sent it into terminal decline." Mr Waughman says that charges include a 5 per cent penalty because the investment is small: a 5 per cent bid/offer spread; a 6 per cent management charge on the first year's investment; and a surrender penalty of 63 per cent of the remaining value of the first year's fund, if the policy is surrendered after ten years.

Mr Waughman is now trying to press the company for compensation over what he believes to be misleading advertising. In a letter to the company, Mr Waughman said: "During the period, the UK stock market indices have approx-

mately doubled, with most of the gain being made recently, ie, when a high number of units have been accumulated. "To have achieved a return of only 5 per cent per annum compounded on a doubling of share values plus dividends suggests a low level of competence on the part of the investment manager." The Ambassador savings plan is now no longer offered by the company, which means that figures comparing its performance to other similar products on the market are difficult to obtain. However, according to a recent survey by the specialist magazine *Money Marketing*, Abbey Life's whole-of-life unit-linked savings plan would show the second-

lowest return out of 18 plans if cashed in after five years.

A spokeswoman for Abbey Life said that all charges and the surrender penalties would have been made clear in the original documentation. She also pointed out that the product had performed in line with the projections, and claimed that investing in a building society account over the same period would have produced much smaller returns. Putting £15 a month in to an average investment trust over 10 years would have produced a lump sum of £3,546 while the equivalent in a unit trust would now be worth £2,980, £711 more than final sum received by Mrs Waughman.

According to Miroslav, the statistics specialist, £15 a month put in a building society account would have shown a 2.58 per cent return over the same period.

CAROLINE MERRELL

## A QUESTION OF MONEY

## When the name in the frame is the nominee

Q What is a nominee company?

A A nominee company holds shares and other securities on behalf of investors. It allows stockbrokers to buy and sell shares in a quick and efficient manner. An increasing number of people hold their shares in nominee accounts to make it easier to meet new Stock Exchange rules, which are shortening the time between when shares are traded and when the trade has to be settled. The nominee company is the legal owner of the shares, but the underlying investors have a beneficial interest in the shares — they are entitled to all the income and capital gains.

It is not mandatory for shareholders to use a nominee to hold their shares, although some individual brokers may insist that a nominee account is used.

in will be sent to the nominee company. The nominee will also receive any shareholder perks, such as discounts on the products or services offered by the company.

Some nominees may choose to distribute these perks to the underlying investors. Anyone who opts to use a nominee service, should ask about the arrangements for the distribution of perks.

Individuals who use nominees do not lose the right to accept or reject offers for the shares from other companies, nor do they lose the right to vote.

Q Can I be certain my assets are safe?

A All the assets in a nominee account should be quite clearly separated from the company that offers the service. If the firm that holds your assets folds, your assets should be protected.

Even if there are insufficient funds in the nominee account, and the company fails, then you should be protected by the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) or other compensation arrangements.

However, at the moment, because nominee services do not fall under the Financial Services Act 1986, compensation is not compulsory.

You should ask your stockbroker for clear guidance on how investments are protected while with the nominee.

The Securities and Investments Board, the chief City watchdog, is trying to bring in rules that will mean all investors with assets in nominee accounts will be protected automatically.

Q What happens if you have a complaint against a nominee operator?

A Although nominee services do not fall under the FSA, the banks and stockbrokers that offer the services are regulated. Complaints will be handled by the nominee operator's regulatory body.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Q What is the time set for settlement?

A This limit is set at "T plus 5", the trade day plus five more days. This is expected to drop to "T plus 3" next year, when Crest, the new Stock Exchange settlement system, starts. The exchange hopes to move to "T plus 0", trading and paying on the same day.

Q Who offers nominee accounts?

A Many of the brokers and banks that offer share dealing services also have nominee companies that run nominee accounts.

Q Do stockbrokers charge extra for using nominee accounts?

A Most brokers do charge for nominee services. The charges vary between firms, for example, Killik & Co charges £1.50 for each dividend collected. Others may charge a flat fee or fee based on the number of shares held.

Q Do you get the same information from the company, if you hold the shares in a nominee?

A Circulars and information from the company you hold your shares

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

## Christmas gift

A high interest

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investment that  
grows with your child



## Key Plus Points

7.85%pa compound guaranteed over the first 5 years

Ideal Christmas present from parents, relatives or friends

Invest from £25 to £1,000

Keeps on growing until the child reaches 21

Buy before 20 November, to make sure the Bonds are received before Christmas

Tax-free

Children's Bonus Bonds are sold subject to the terms of the relevant prospectus. Irrespective of who is the purchaser, the Bonds will always be sent to the person with parental responsibility who will also have control of the Bonds until the child's 16th birthday.

If you use this application to buy Bonds, we will send you a copy of the prospectus. You will then have 28 days to cancel the purchase by writing to the Children's Bonus Bonds Office and returning the Bond.

No interest is earned on a cancelled purchase or on Bonds cashed in before the first anniversary of the purchase. Details of the interest and bonus payable are contained in the prospectus.

The Director of Savings reserves the right to seek evidence of identity when you want to purchase or when repayment is requested. Any issue of Children's Bonus Bonds can be withdrawn from sale without notice.

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NATIONAL SAVINGS CHILDREN'S BONUS BONDS Issue G Application to purchase

1 I apply to buy \_\_\_\_\_ units at £25 each (Select the amount of the prospectus) Total Value £ \_\_\_\_\_ 00p

Your cheque should be crossed "A/C Payee" and made payable to "NATIONAL SAVINGS (CHILDREN'S BONUS BONDS)" using CAPITAL letters for this part of the cheque. Please write your name and address on the back of the cheque.

2 Does the child already hold a National Savings Children's Bonus Bond? (Please Tick) Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes ☒ please enter the Holder's Number \_\_\_\_\_

3 Name, address and birthplace of child  
M. Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
All forenames \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

4 Name and address of the person with parental responsibility to control the bondholding until the child is 16.  
M. Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
All forenames \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
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not just from regulators, but also from consumers as they become more aware

## Watchdog on the policy prowl

Life insurance companies, including the life divisions of banks and building societies that appear to be selling a high proportion of endowment mortgages, may soon be targeted by investment regulators and asked to prove they have been giving suitable advice, it was announced this week.

This would underline regulators' continuing concern over possible mis-selling of endowments. In spite of this, big lenders are still selling large numbers of endowment mortgages. For example, 70 per cent of clients introduced to the Halifax Building Society by brokers buy endowments.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders says that in the first quarter of this year, more than half of buyers were sold endowments, and 63 per cent of first-time buyers, although the latter are likely to be young and single and not in need of savings plans based on life assurance.

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), which regulates sales of endowment schemes, has been told by its independent consumer panel that all life offices should be made to disclose what proportion of mortgages arranged by salesmen are linked to endowment

policies. This would identify which companies are most actively selling such policies, and PIA inspectors could then target them.

Under present rules, banks, building societies and others are not compelled to give "best advice" on mortgage repayment methods. They often recommend endowments, even when these may not be suitable, because they pay the highest commission.

A report earlier this year by the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) said endowments can be the costliest and riskiest way of covering a loan, even for borrowers who keep up repayments. There is no guarantee that an endowment will even pay off a loan, let alone provide a tax-free lump sum on top. Some borrowers could find themselves up to £10,000 worse off with an endowment than a repayment by the end of the mortgage term, the OFT calculated. Sir Bryan Carsberg, then head of the OFT, said that high endowment sales suggested possible mis-selling.

The PIA consumer panel joined the OFT in calling for new legislation to bring mortgage advice under the Financial Services Act. This would make lenders prove that an endowment was more suitable than a

repayment or other sort of mortgage. However, it stopped short of advising the PIA to review past endowment sales, as it has personal pensions.

Young, single people and others who may have been better off with a repayment mortgage could still do well with a high-performing, competitively-priced endowment. Borrowers are growing increasingly suspicious of endowments after bad publicity. In interviews with the consumer panel, borrowers blamed life companies for over-optimistic projections and promises that policies would be guaranteed to pay off the mortgage. They also accused salesmen of selling policies for the commission.

But banks, building societies, estate agents and brokers are still selling more endowments than any other sort of mortgage. The Halifax's latest figures show that in February just over half of its new borrowers, including first-time buyers, had endowments from Halifax Life, the society's life assurance arm. Halifax branches and Halifax Property Services, the society's estate agency chain, are agents of Halifax Life and can sell only its policies. Mike Cherry of the Halifax said: "It is not a

question of everyone just getting an endowment. We believe our endowment policy is one of the best, with a competitive charging structure and better surrender values [than our competitors]."

More than 60 per cent of General Accident Life's mortgage customers have endowments. This figure includes first-time buyers and borrowers who have endowments from previous purchases. An estimated 80 per cent of GA's mortgage business comes through GA Property Services, its 450 branch estate agency chain. Mortgage advisers at GA Property Services work for GA Mortgage and Financial Services, GA's financial services arm, which can sell only GA Life policies. John Whitehead, of GA, said: "There isn't any bias towards commission-based products." Barclays, the largest of the big four banks, says, however, that it is coming under pressure from customers who do not want endowments. A total of 48 per cent of Barclays customers had endowments at the end of last year, lower than the industry average. Nationwide says fewer than 20 per cent of its new borrowers have endowments, adding that there is "a conscious move away from endowments".



An endowment policy is guaranteed to pay off your mortgage at the end of the mortgage term.

False. Many prospective borrowers are told that the payment from the endowment policy is guaranteed, as an additional inducement to take out an endowment rather than a repayment mortgage. One borrower told the Personal Investment Authority's consumer panel: "I thought it was a guaranteed thing. I thought, say when your house was worth, I don't know, £50,000, then I'd get £50,000 to pay my house off..."

In fact, endowment payouts are not guaranteed. They are stock market investments and their value can fall. The monthly premium you pay assumes a certain level of growth. If the underlying investments fail to grow at the assumed rate, there could be a shortfall unless you pay a higher premium.

Over the past few years, returns have fallen on endowments owing to a combination of poor stock market performance, low interest rates and low inflation. Several companies have already written to policyholders advising them to raise premiums if this continues, and others may have to.

An endowment will pay me an extra tax-free lump sum as

## Hits and myths of endowments

well as paying off the mortgage.

False. For the same reasons as those outlined above. You may get a tax-free lump sum, but this is not guaranteed. Salesmen use the magic words "tax-free" as an extra inducement. Borrowers who took out policies in the late 1980s are likely to be hardest hit if lower returns continue because the market started to fall soon after they took out their policies. The Personal Investment Authority heard from one borrower: "Endowments were the thing. Not so long ago, they were pushing these and telling us they were the bees' knees, greatest thing to have and to pay your mortgage off. Then there'll be a £20,000 cash lump sum to put in your pocket."

The insurance company should tell me if there could be a shortfall on my policy when I come to paying back the mortgage.

False. The company has no duty to tell you, although some will review your premiums regularly and let you know if you have to pay more. This is more likely if your policy is unit-linked. Holders of with profits policies have traditionally not had such reviews. If you are concerned but you have heard nothing, contact the company or the person who sold you the policy.

Endowments are more flexible than repayments.

False, although it is a well-used sales line. Endowments are flexible in that they can be taken from one property to another and linked to a new mortgage. But once you have an endowment, you will almost certainly lose money if you try and cash it in before it matures or stop paying premiums. Unless you use savings or other capital from elsewhere to pay off debt during the term, your outstanding debt will be the same at the

end as it was at the beginning. With a repayment mortgage, you are repaying capital from the beginning. Sales people will tell you you have to start again for another 25-year-term with a repayment mortgage every time you move house. But there is nothing to stop you choosing a shorter term, paying off debt during the term or selling up altogether and repaying the debt.

Endowments earn salesmen more commission than repayments.

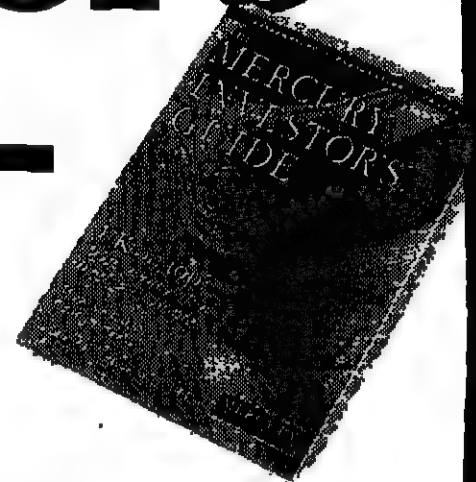
True. Salesmen are paid a commission for each endowment they sell.

They will not normally get a commission for repayment mortgages, although some lenders may pay them an introductory fee. Independent advisers who charge fees should get no financial advantage from offering you an endowment rather than a repayment.

In some cases, the whole of the first two years' premiums on an endowment goes in commission and other expenses.

Salesmen have had to disclose commission since the beginning of this year, which has forced more life companies to pay salaries and spread commission over the term of the policy, lessening the impact on surrender values of upfront commission.

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## Far East leads the way in a varied list of trust launches

The current crop of new trust launches offers investors a considerable degree of variety. Heading the list of those in the market to raise money is Martin Currie's Japan Investment Trust, which closes next Friday, and hopes to raise up to £40 million. Martin Currie Japan, with a minimum investment of £500, has introduced a new alternative to the standard offer of one free warrant for every five shares bought. Investors can, if they wish, choose cash instead of warrants at the equivalent of 25p per warrant representing 5p per share.

The Martin Currie newcomer, which has already received firm commitments of £15 million, will look to invest in about 60 large, medium and small companies, principally listed on the more accessible first and second sections of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and the over-the-counter market.

Michael Thomas, the trust manager, already looks after Martin Currie's £29 million Japan unit trust. In September, when Fund Research cast its slide rule over the unit trust, it gave it a AAA rating. The Edinburgh group forecasts that the Nikkei 225 index of leading Japanese companies will reach 21,000 by the end of 1996 from its current position of 17,843. At its peak in 1989, the index stood at 39,000, so there is plenty of scope for an upward improvement on the current position.

Also following the Far Eastern investment theme, although Japan is specifically excluded from the portfolio, is Kleinwort Benson with its new Asian Growth unit trust. This follows a restructuring this summer of its old £93 million Pacific trust. The new portfolio invests in the Pacific Basin stock markets. It has a minimum investment of £500 (£25 a month) with



annual annual charge of 1.5 per cent and an up-front fee of 5.5 per cent although there is a 2 per cent discount on investments made before November 30.

Two new investment trusts with a difference are Finsbury's Technology Trust and Emerald, to be run by Capital Trust Financial Management, the specialist Northern Ireland fund managers.

Emerald, whose prospectus was published yesterday and whose market debut is sponsored by Rea Brothers and Davy Stockbrokers, will have a dual listing in London and Dublin and invest on both sides of the Irish Border. The managers hope to raise between £15 million and £40 million and have offered one free warrant for every five shares.

David Lamont, a partner of Capital Trust, says: "Over the past four years the Republic's economy has recorded the fastest growth of any European Union country. In the North, there has been a significant recovery, which has undoubtedly been enhanced by the paramilitary cease-fire arrangements."

Finsbury's FinTech trust, also sponsored by Rea Brothers, is looking to raise at least £20 million and has a minimum investment level of £1,000. The portfolio is expected to start off with up to 30 core holdings, with the remainder spread over some 50 companies at a less mature stage of development.

Friends Provident will be delighted if its new-style Venture Capital Trust, which offers official PEP-style tax breaks, raises £20 million. The minimum investment is £2,000 and a five-year view is needed.

Details: Martin Currie Japan: 0800 132647; Emerald: 0171-623 1155; Kleinwort: 0800 317573; Friends Provident: 0171-329 4454.

ROBERT MILLER

Nordic markets are on song, says Robert Miller

## The winner takes it all in Scandinavian stocks

Scandinavian markets have been quietly making money this year while the focus has been on rarer investment stories, such as US technology stocks, Japan, and the Mexican peso falling 50 per cent. Quietly, because there is no way of knowing, without researching individual unit and investment trust portfolios, or seeking independent advice, what exposure managers have to Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway. But the ability of these markets to generate useful profits should not be underestimated.

Nigel Triptree, a director and asset allocation specialist at Brewin Dolphin, the stockbroker, has had 50 per cent of his European pot, around 7 per cent of his global assets, invested in the Nordic markets for more than a year. He has done so mainly through the European unit trusts run by Morgan Grenfell's Peter Young and Fidelity's Anthony Bolton, a noted long-term fan of Scandinavian stock markets.

The latest Microcap statistics show that the Triptree approach has paid handsome dividends. Over the past 12 months, Morgan Grenfell's Europe and European Growth unit trusts are up 32 and 25 per cent respectively, well above the 7.61 per cent average return from the other 116 like-minded trusts. And that is after charges have been taken into account. In the same period, Fidelity's European Values Investment trust has produced a return of 26 per cent, before charges, against an average for the sector of 5 per cent.

Of the main Nordic markets, Sweden has probably the best known brand names. Electrolux, for example, is the world's biggest household appliance manufacturer, and this week announced a 21 per cent underlying rise in nine-month profits to 2.8 billion Swedish krona. Saab and Volvo also register high on the global recognition scale. But other Swedish exports are even more instantly recognisable. Who, for instance, has not heard of Abba, with a string of hits, from *Waterloo* and the apt *Money, Money, Money*. Or seen breathtaking base-line passing shots from Bjorn Borg's racket. At the height of their fame, Abba's financial conglomerate owned considerable chunks of the Swedish stock market and their



Half an empire: the sound of money making money

turnover was said to rival that of Volvo.

Large parcels of the shares traded in Sweden are still spoken for by a few individuals and family trusts with numerous cross-holdings in each other. They may have released more shares onto the market, but many of these do not carry voting rights. But at least the region appears to have recovered from the banking crisis of the early 1990s, when Governments were forced to intervene heavily to save banks from

The Nordic attraction is mainly centred on Finland, Norway and Sweden, with Denmark running some way behind. The investment story is not so much the traditional industries such as fishing, tourism and oil, although roughly a quarter of Norway's annual economic growth still comes from North Sea oil. According to Mr Young, it is in the broadest sense telecommunications. Finland's Nokia, the mobile phone maker, which accounts for up to 30 per cent of the country's stock market, has many of the components it needs made in neighbouring countries. In Sweden, there is Ericsson, a telecoms manufacturing equipment company, and in Norway it is Nera. Our own Rentokil, in large part owned by the Danish Sophus Berendsen, Denmark also boasts Novonor-disk, which produces enigmms for brewing, washing powders and wood bleaches.

In performance terms, NatWest Securities says that the Financial Times/Standard & Poors World Index Nordic is showing a gain of 24.5 per cent over the past 12 months and 16.7 per cent over six months. These are considerably better rises than those of other European indices. Hamish Buchan, a director of NatWest Securities, also adds that favourable currency plays have helped the Scandinavian success story by producing extra profits for sterling investors.

Nordic experts take the view that share prices in the region are relatively cheap compared with other countries in Europe. Companies such as Nokia, which has roared ahead from a low base two years ago, offer better value than companies doing the same job in other European countries. What also attracts many fund managers researching Scandinavian countries is the openness with which they react to probing questions about their financial affairs and their plans for the future. This is in marked contrast to others, notably German companies, which are often loath to part with more information than necessary.

Mr Triptree, as befis a cautious money manager, plans to take some of his Scandinavian profits, although he intends to retain a good exposure to these markets for the medium term, at least. The profit, by the way, is headed for the French market.

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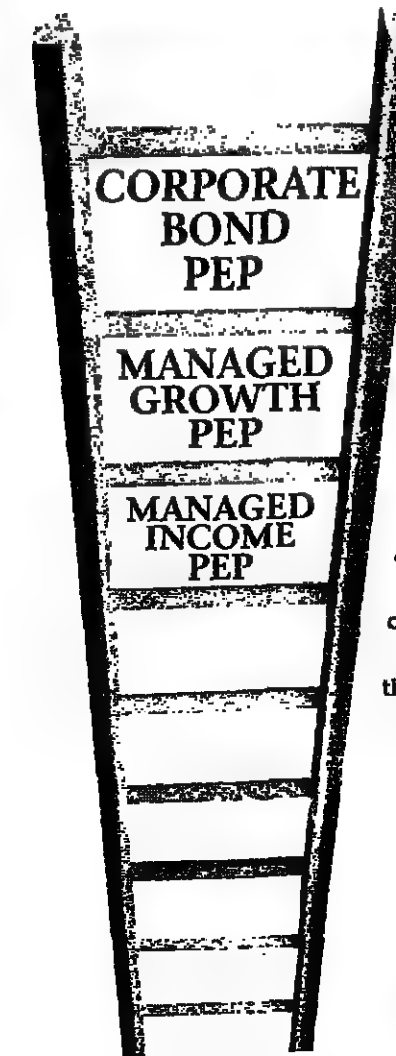
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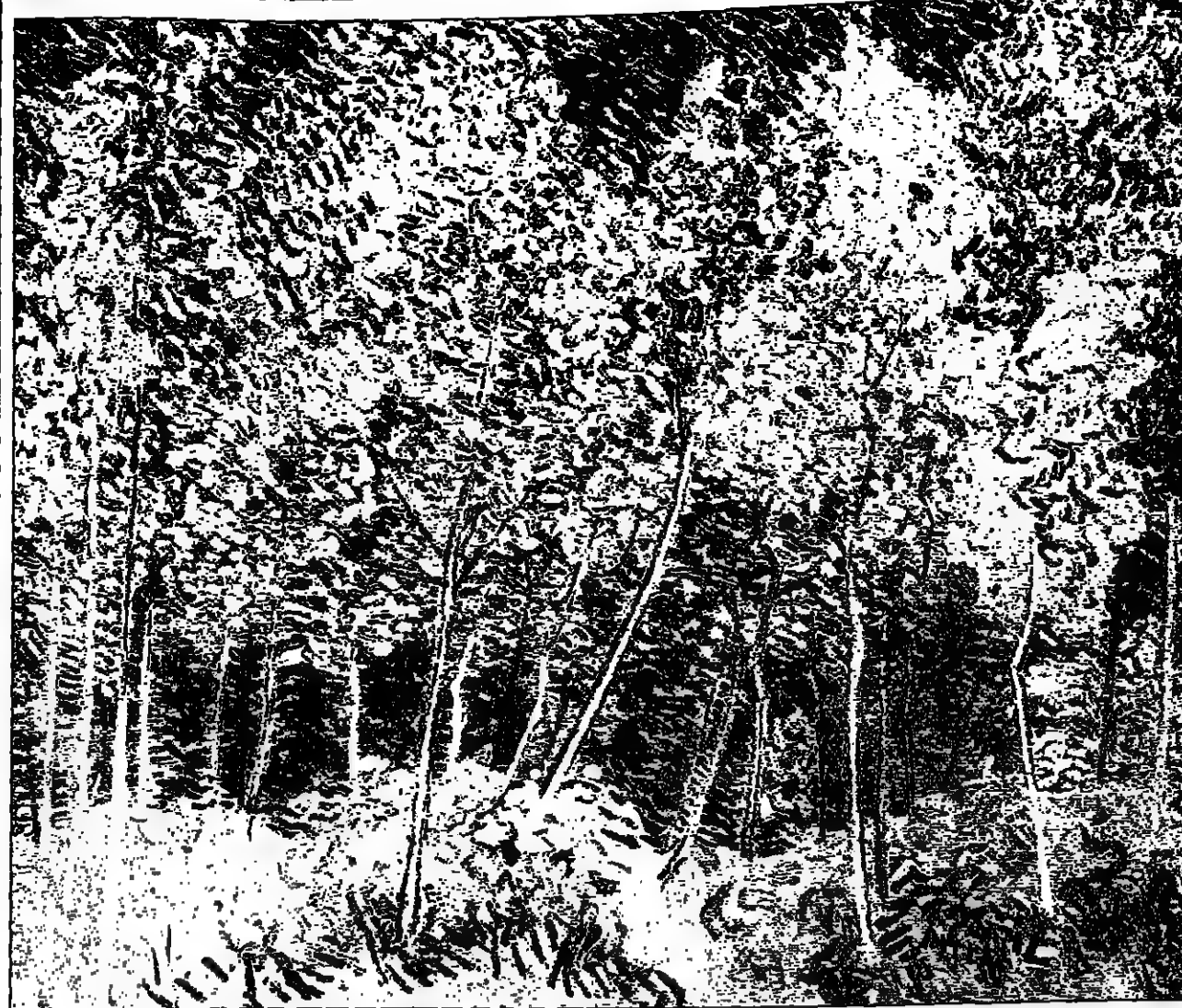
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Vincent van Gogh's *The Thicket* made \$26.9 million at Sotheby's this week in an art market healthier at all levels

## Picture emerges of art market revival

The time has come to look more closely at those familiar paintings, hanging demurely on your walls, that you always suspected might be worth something.

The chances are that over the past few years they would not have fetched a lot, if anything. The art market has been in the doldrums for most of the 1990s after its glory days of upwardly spiralling prices in the late 1980s. But that is all changing. Major sales of impressionist and modern paintings at Sotheby's and Christie's in New York this week have shown that the art market is roaring back to life.

Both auction houses broke through the \$100 million sales level in their main auctions for the first time since May 1990. Christie's triumphantly offloaded Picasso's *Le Miroir* for \$20 million on Tuesday. The following day, Sotheby's found a buyer willing to spend \$26.9 million on a lush forest landscape by Van Gogh called *The Thicket* – three times the amount estimated by the experts. Both houses were offering more works valued at \$5 million or above than they have for years.

A good indication of the revival in activity is the overall sales figures of the auctioneers. Turnover at Christie's, for example, has more than doubled since last year. Sales in 1994 were about \$60 million, but this week alone they reached \$105 million, after a hefty \$60 million in May.

"Of course, the important works can always go into the stratosphere," says Michael Findlay, the senior director of impressionist and modern painting at Christie's, New York. "There were buyers from Europe, Japan, Taiwan and South America as well as the US. They were trade

dealers, syndicates and individual collectors."

David Nash, director of Sotheby's paintings division, says: "This is not crazy or speculative buying. The market is very much back in the hands of collectors who are willing to spend solid blocks of money for good works."

However, while the very top end of the market is soaring, what is giving auctioneers and investors most satisfaction is the depth of the art market revival at lower price levels.

"What it shows is that although prices have not shot up for most paintings, they are selling well," says Mr Findlay. "The market can absorb a lot of material if the price is right."

That goes for the big paintings, too. Sotheby's failed to sell several Picassos and a Matisse because, by common agreement among the experts, their sellers had overpriced them. Even further down the scale, cheaper artists are selling well. "The lower slopes of

economy has been strong this year and the stock market has boomed, which always helps to make art investors feel that much richer. The UK economy has not been quite so strong – or, at least, the "feel-good" factor remains somewhat elusive – but, given the international nature of art investing these days, this may not matter. Prices have been just as strong in the UK, as a sale in London by Sotheby's last June showed.

Mr Findlay says: "Although the London market is less given to impulsive bidding, if we had offered the same pictures there as we did here this week, we would have had the same buyers and achieved the same prices."

Mr Nash agrees, saying: "Our marketing in London and New York goes to the same people. The market is so international now."

The message is clear. You don't have to own a Van Gogh to be able to sell a picture these days. Even quite modest paintings that probably would not have sold for anything like their fair value – if at all – even a year ago are now likely to be seen as a valuable property by the art market. As long as you are not looking for ridiculously high prices, your painting is far more likely to sell now than it was a year ago.

And if you are an investor, things look equally good. Prices, in general, are not astronomical because sellers and auction houses are being conservative. However, equally important is that the choice of what is on offer has broadened enormously in the past few months. There are more works in all price ranges on sale now than at any other time in the 1990s.

RICHARD THOMSON  
in New York

### Collectors are now willing to spend solid blocks of money for good works

Although sales of major works grab the headlines, a larger sale of cheaper works by a wider range of artists is a better indicator of the market. The strength goes right the way down through the whole market, even to the level of decorative pictures," Mr Nash says.

Christie's put up 250 lots on Wednesday from painters as diverse as Picasso, Chagall and Miró, mostly priced at \$100,000 to \$500,000. They

the market are sound if priced accordingly," says Mr Findlay. "Stuff priced at around \$30,000 is doing very well. These are often works from well-known artists that we could not sell for any price a couple of years ago."

The New York and London markets are not, of course, identical. New York is known for its adventurousness, and London tends to be more cautious. Moreover, conditions in the US are good. The

## Borrowers guide to mortgage insurance

THE Council of Mortgage Lenders has finally produced a guide to mortgage indemnity insurance for borrowers (Caroline Merrell writes).

This long-awaited move follows an 18-month legal wrangle between lenders, borrowers, insurance companies and independent financial advisers. The row has focused on whether lenders and insurance companies had the right to pursue those whose property had been repossessed for any shortfall between the outstanding loan and money reaped from selling the property.

Some firms, including the Southend-based Union Finance, were urging those who had been repossessed to resist paying off their debts. It claimed that mortgage indemnity insurance, taken out by lenders, but paid for by borrowers, would pay off the outstanding debt.

However, the CML's guide, which is based on legal opinion, warns borrowers about following this advice. It says: "Some advisers have misunderstood the nature of mortgage indemnity and wording of the mortgage indemnity policies. Mortgage indemnity covers only your lender and does not affect your personal promise to pay the loan. Consequently, you should be very wary of taking advice offered by any person or company that by simply handing your property back to your lender, you will be covered by lender's mortgage indemnity and so avoid any shortfall. As you can see such advice is wrong."

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Source of figures: Microprint to 06/11/95. Gross income reinvested on Schroder UK Enterprise Fund since 01/08/88: £6,000 became £21,696. Gross income reinvested since 01/08/88: £1,300.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation may change. Tax reliefs referred to are those currently available and their value may depend on the circumstances of the individual investor.

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Sara McConnell on moves to avoid chaos in bonus share allocations

## Abbey pledge on N&P payout

Abbey National promised this week that National & Provincial members in line for bonus payments in Abbey shares after the bank's takeover of N&P would not see a repeat performance of the administrative chaos which followed Abbey's own flotation as a public company in 1980.

Customers are still disputing allocations of Abbey shares, more than six years after the float.

The promise comes as N&P moves into top gear to try to get its membership register up to date in time for the takeover.

It has just written to its 1.3 million members eligible for bonuses of Abbey shares, urging them to tell the society of any changes of name or address. It hopes to avoid issuing duplicate sets of shares or sending information to old addresses. Customers who think they are eligible for a payout but who have not heard from the society should contact their branch. Qualifying N&P members stand to get at least £500 of Abbey shares if the takeover goes ahead next summer.

Abbey was the first building society to convert to a bank and issue free shares to members in return for agreeing to the conversion. But the issue was dogged with problems, some of which are only now coming to light as people try to sell their shares.

Some customers were issued with too many shares because they had several accounts listed in slightly different names. Abbey failed to "deduplicate" all of these, instead allocating two sets of shares to some investors. It also had to contend with the public relations fiasco which ensued when half a million Abbey share certificates were discovered burnt in a skip in southeast London.

Duplicate certificates had to be issued but the records of Lloyds Bank, then registrar for Abbey shares, were not good enough to be certain that duplicates had been issued to the right people.

John Fry, Abbey's deputy chairman, admits: "The system of checks and controls then was not adequate." But he declared himself "very confident" that the forthcoming share issue would be properly handled and the share register run efficiently from the bank's Sheffield office.

He believes all financial institutions have learnt from



The sleuthing skills of Sherlock Holmes would be needed to resolve some current disputes over share allocations

Abbey's mistakes. Issuing shares to N&P members should be simpler, Mr Fry says. There are fewer people involved. Abbey National had to deal with ten million computer entries and slim them down to 5.8 million eligible members. N&P has done a lot of work on its membership

reading of the experiences of the Hyland family. John and Christine Hyland had tried to sell their Abbey shares but instead were asked to return 100 of the shares, worth nearly £900, after Abbey said they had received too large an allocation. Savers and borrowers were each allocated 100

free shares. Those who were both savers and borrowers like Mr Hyland were allocated 200. But Mr Hyland received 300 shares because his name appeared twice in a slightly different form in Abbey's records.

Mr Dutta checked his own share certificates after reading of the Hylands' experience. He discovered that his own name had also been wrongly spelt on one of his certificates. He had been allocated 300 free shares instead of 200. He contacted Abbey to point this out. Abbey

demanded the return of the certificates and removed 100 shares from Mr Dutta. It also asked him to repay £68.95 in dividend payments. Mr Dutta refused and the Abbey this week bowed to pressure from *The Times* to waive this demand.

Abbey said: "We have to be careful. We could not always tell if the accounts belonged to the same person." It had been up to customers to make sure they had signed forms for the right allocation of shares, it said.



Jean Burnett has been trying since April to get the 100 free shares she says are due to her mother after the death of her father who owned the account. Mrs Burnett says her father never received the shares. "My father was particularly cross because Abbey claimed he had already had the shares. He was very meticulous and he would have had a record of them."

Abbey says it has a record of a share certificate being sent and suggests Mrs Burnett's father sold the shares immediately. But it cannot prove this without going back into other records. This will take up to 12 weeks and cost Mrs Burnett £30.

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# Bank adds to card facility

Barclays Bank is replacing its existing cash-only card with a new Barclaycard payment card. The card has two added features: "Electron", for paying for goods and services in the UK and abroad, and "Plus", for withdrawing money from cash machines worldwide. This is the first time that a bank in the United Kingdom has offered all its customers the use of a debit card. Available from Monday, the Barclaycard will be sent to existing current account holders when their old card expires or to new customers opening an account.

One in four of the population will require residential care in their old age, but the majority will not have the resources to pay for it, according to *The Over-60 Directory*. The guide offers invaluable advice to anyone concerned with old age, providing information on legal and financial matters, health, and accommodation. The guide will be available in bookshops from Monday, priced at £9.99.

Age Concern Insurance Services (ACIS) is advising those booking holidays now to shop around for the best insurance deals. ACIS's travel poli-

cy is designed to meet the specific needs of the older traveller, without automatically increasing insurance premiums because of age. The policy includes worldwide cover for up to 6 months and medical and emergency expenses up to £2 million. For further information, as well as a free copy of *Age Concern's Holiday Hints* guide, write to Age Concern Insurance Services, Church House, Chaldon Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5YD.

Allied Dunbar has published a 700-page comprehensive guide to business tax and law which considers both the legal environment in which businesses operate and tax obligations which must be met. *The Allied Dunbar Business Tax and Law Handbook* costs £23 and can be purchased from bookshops, or from FT Law and Tax on 0800 289 618.

The Office of Fair Trading's current consumer information pack can be obtained, free of charge, by calling 0181 398 3405. Included is the latest in the *Know Your Rights* series, called *Using a Pawnbroker*.

LIZANNE ROSE

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at November 9, 1995			
Investment (£)	Company	Guaranteed Rate (%)	
1 Year			
5,000	AIG Life	5.10	
10,000	AIG Life	5.15	
20,000	AIG Life	5.20	
50,000	AIG Life	5.25	
2 Years			
1,000	Premium Life	5.50	
10,000	AIG Life	5.53	
20,000	AIG Life	5.73	
50,000	AIG Life	5.78	
3 Years			
1,000	Premium Life	5.60	
10,000	AIG Life	5.67	
20,000	AIG Life	5.72	
50,000	AIG Life	5.82	
4 Years			
1,000	Premium Life	5.90	
10,000	AIG Life	5.82	
20,000	AIG Life	5.87	
50,000	AIG Life	5.90	
5 Years			
3,000	Abbey Life	6.70	
15,000	Abbey Life	6.90	
50,000	Abbey Life	7.10	

Source: Chamberlain & Bost 0171-434 4222. Rates net of 25% tax (which cannot be reclaimed), income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

## SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS				
Britannia BS 01538 382808	Capital Trust	£2,000	5.80	Yly
Co-operative Bank 0345 282000	Pathfinder	£5,000	5.80	Mly
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 243822	Instant	£10,000	6.00	Yly
Birmingham Midshires BS 0645 720721	First Class	£25,000	6.20	Yly

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
FIXED RATES				
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Investment Cert	1yr bond	£1,000	6.80 FOM
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 244 0357	Investment Bond	2yr bond	£5,000	7.05 FVly
Woolwich BS 0800 400800	Fixed Rate Bond	3yr bond	£500	7.25 FVly
Birmingham Midshires BS 0645 720721	Millennium Bond	4yr bond	£5,000	7.75 FVly

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
NOTICE ACCOUNTS AND BONDS				
Nottingham BS 0115 948 1444	Postmark	7 day p	£2,500	5.90 Yly
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Postmark	30 day p	£1,000	6.80 Yly
Northampton BS 0800 508000	Postmark	90 day p	£10,000	6.80 Yly
Greenwich BS 0181 958 8212	Flagship Term	1 yr bond	£5,000	7.00 Yly

## CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/SBP 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.88%	12.40%	Nil C
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 181618	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Prizell Bank 0800 373191	MasterCard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£11

## PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£118.54
N&P BS 0800 808000	15.50%	£118.52
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£123.34

No. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); O = overdraft interest paid on maturity

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01822 500 677)

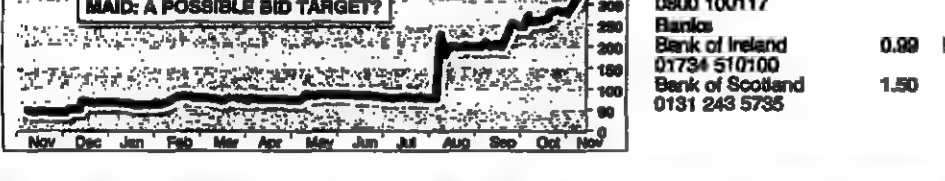
## PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	96.67	98.80	100.17	100.00	
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	118.87	9.784	100.13	10.00	
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	132.73	9.777	100.20	10.00	
British & West 13.375%	135.21	9.871	100.34	10.00	
Britannia 13.000%	130.99	9.804	100.42	1.000	
Coventry 12.125%	122.40	9.886	100.75	1.000	
First National 11.750%	112.22	10.465	100.25	10.000	
Halifax 8.750%	91.18	9.800	100.82	90.000	
Halifax 12.000%	123.05	9.504	100.28	20.000	
Halifax 13.625%	141.38	9.616	100.00	90.000	
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375%	134.88	9.894	100.23	1.000	
Newcastle 10.750%	110.88	9.686	100.32	1.000	
Newcastle 12.625%	130.14	9.686	100.45	1.000	
Northampton 12.625%	132.15	9.533	100.14	1.000	
Northampton 12.625%	131.73	9.793	100.48	1.000	

## FLOATING RATE

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
First National 9.300000%	100.75	100.00	1.000		
Cheshire (28/03-28/09) 9.247500%	105.63	100.00	1.000		

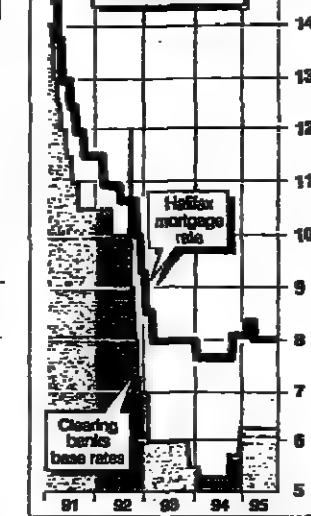
PIBS = Permanent Interest-Bearing Shares. Source: ABI AURA Home Sheet - 0171 601 0101



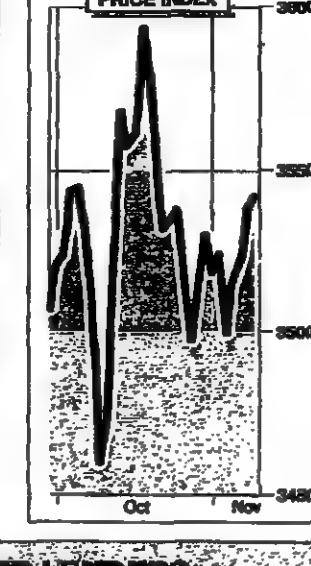
## UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

Unit	Offer	Wtd	Yld	Unit	Offer	Wtd	Yld
ARGON LIFE ASSURANCE				Unit 100	100.00	1.00	1.00
Argon Life Assurance	100.00	1.00	1.00	Unit 200	200.00	2.00	2.00
Argon Life Assurance	300.00	3.00	3.00	Unit 400	400.00	4.00	4.00
Argon Life Assurance	500.00	5.00	5.00	Unit 600	600.00	6.00	6.00
Argon Life Assurance	700.00	7.00	7.00	Unit 800	800.00	8.00	8.00
Argon Life Assurance	900.00	9.00	9.00	Unit 1000	1000.00	10.00	10.00
Argon Life Assurance	1100.00	11.00	11.00	Unit 1200	1200.00	12.00	12.00
Argon Life Assurance	1300.00	13.00	13.00	Unit 1400	1400.00	14.00	14.00
Argon Life Assurance	1500.00	15.00	15.00	Unit 1600	1600.00	16.00	16.00
Argon Life Assurance	1700.00	17.00	17.00	Unit 1800	1800.00	18.00	18.00
Argon Life Assurance	1900.00	19.00	19.00	Unit 2000	2000.00	20.00	20.00
Argon Life Assurance	2100.00	21.00	21.00	Unit 2200	2200.00	22.00	22.00
Argon Life Assurance	2300.00	23.00	23.00	Unit 2400	2400.00	24.00	24.00
Argon Life Assurance	2500.00	25.00	25.00	Unit 2600	2600.00	26.00	26.00
Argon Life Assurance	2700.00	27.00	27.00	Unit 2800	2800.00	28.00	28.00
Argon Life Assurance	2900.00	29.00	29.00	Unit 3000	3000.00	30.00	30.00
Argon Life Assurance	3100.00	31.00	31.00	Unit 3200	3200.00	32.00	32.00
Argon Life Assurance	3300.00	33.00	33.00	Unit 3400	3400.00	34.00	34.00
Argon Life Assurance	3500.00	35.00	35.00	Unit 3600	3600.00	36.00	36.00
Argon Life Assurance	3700.00	37.00	37.00	Unit 3800	3800.00	38.00	38.00
Argon Life Assurance	3900.00	39.00	39.00	Unit 4000	4000.00	40.00	40.00
Argon Life Assurance	4100.00	41.00	41.00	Unit 4200	4200.00	42.00	42.00
Argon Life Assurance	4300.00	43.00	43.00	Unit 4400	4400.00	44.00	44.00
Argon Life Assurance	4500.00	45.00	45.00	Unit 4600	4600.00	46.00	46.00
Argon Life Assurance	4700.00	47.00	47.00	Unit 4800	4800.00	48.00	48.00
Argon Life Assurance	4900.00	49.00	49.00	Unit 5000	5000.00	50.00	50.00
Argon Life Assurance	5100.00	51.00	51.00	Unit 5200	5200.00	52.00	52.00
Argon Life Assurance	5300.00	53.00	53.00	Unit 5400	5400.00	54.00	54.00
Argon Life Assurance	5500.00	55.00	55.00	Unit 5600	5600.00	56.00	56.00
Argon Life Assurance	5700.00	57.00	57.00	Unit 5800	5800.00	58.00	58.00
Argon Life Assurance	5900.00	59.00	59.00	Unit 6000	6000.00	60.00	60.00
Argon Life Assurance	6100.00	61.00	61.00	Unit 6200	6200.00	62.00	62.00
Argon Life Assurance	6300.00	63.00	63.00	Unit 6400	6400.00	64.00	64.00
Argon Life Assurance	6500.00	65.00	65.00	Unit 6600	6600.00	66.00	66.00
Argon Life Assurance	6700.00	67.00	67.00	Unit 6800	6800.00	68.00	68.00
Argon Life Assurance	6900.00	69.00	69.00	Unit 7000	7000.00	70.00	70.00
Argon Life Assurance	7100.00	71.00	71.00	Unit 7200	7200.00	72.00	72.00
Argon Life Assurance	7300.00	73.00	73.00	Unit 7400	7400.00	74.00	74.00
Argon Life Assurance	7500.00	75.00	75.00	Unit 7600	7600.00	76.00	76.00
Argon Life Assurance	7700.00	77.00	77.00	Unit 7800	7800.00	78.00	78.00
Argon Life Assurance	7900.00	79.00	79.00	Unit 8000	8000.00	80.00	80.00
Argon Life Assurance	8100.00	81.00	81.00	Unit 8200	8200.00	82.00	82.00
Argon Life Assurance	8300.00	83.00	83.00	Unit 8400	8400.00	84.00	84.00
Argon Life Assurance	8500.00	85.00	85.00	Unit 8600	8600.00	86.00	86.00
Argon Life Assurance	8700.00	87.00	87.00	Unit 8800	8800.00	88.00	88.00
Argon Life Assurance	8900.00	89.00	89.00	Unit 9000	9000.00	90.00	90.00
Argon Life Assurance	9100.00	91.00	91.00	Unit 9200	9200.00	92.00	92.00
Argon Life Assurance	9300.00	93.00	93.00	Unit 9400	9400.00	94.00	94.00
Argon Life Assurance	9500.00	95.00	95.00	Unit 9600	9600.00	96.00	96.00
Argon Life Assurance	9700.00	97.00	97.00	Unit 9800	9800.00	98.00	98.00
Argon Life Assurance	9900.00	99.00	99.00	Unit 10000	10000.00	100.00	100.00

## BASE RATES V MORTGAGES



## FT-SE 100 PRICE INDEX



## LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bradford & Bingley	1.85	neg	95	6% disc 1 year, 2% disc 16 mths
Bradford & Bingley	0.95	£15K+	90	Fixed to 30.11.95
Bradford & Bingley	1.98	to £100K	90	6% discount to 1.2.97
Bank of Ireland	2.79	£15K+	75	5.20% discount for 1 year
Bank of Ireland	2.79	£100K+	80	4.85% discount for 1 year

## LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bradford & Bingley	0.75	£15,001-	95	7.24% disc-Smith, 2% disc 16mths, 0.5% 1y
Bradford & Bingley	0.75	to £150K	70	Fixed to 1.12.96
Bradford & Bingley	0.95	£15K+	90	Fixed to 30.11.95
Bank of Ireland	0.95	£20-145K	95	7.51% disc 6 mths, 3% disc 6 mths, 6.49% discount for 8 months
Bank of Scotland	1.50	to £200K	95	
Bank of Scotland	1.50	to £200K	95	

## NATIONAL SAVINGS

Investment	Rate	At tax rate 40%	Minimum investment	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c	2.00	1.50	10-10,000	10-10,000	01418494555
Investment A/c	5.25	3.85	20-499	1mth	01418494555
Income Bond	6.50	4.88	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253786151
First Opt Bond	6.40	4.80	1,000-25,000	8day	01913884900
Child's Bonds	5.85		25-10,000	1mth	01418494555
Govt Ex Rate	3.51				
Capital Bonds	7.75	5.81	100-250,000	8day	01418494555
8th Index Unit	3.00		100-10,000	8day	01913884900
Pennine Bond	7.50	5.63	500-20,000	60day	01253786151

\* Best £70 (£40 p/£100 p) free, first bonus for up to £120. Additional bonus up to £20,000 for investments of £100,000. \* Rates gross and variable. \* Guaranteed when held for 5 years. \* 1.2% net bonus for £20,000+ + £40,000 p in addition to 51 holdings. \* Taxable but not in UK.

## PENSION ANNUITIES



WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Policyholders need answers in the GA takeover of Provident Mutual

From Mr A. S. B. Bass

Sir, The General Accident takeover of Provident Mutual appears, on the face of it, to be presented as something that must happen because Provident Mutual is unable to write new business profitably. Provident Mutual has taken on very little new with-profits business in the past ten years, and indeed has taken reasonably substantial amounts of unit-linked business, to the extent that more than half of the funds they manage are unit-linked. It would seem that almost every policyholder has a vote whether their

policy is with-profits or unit-linked. Is it fair that only with-profits policyholders are to be rewarded? Is it fair that unit-linked policyholders are only promised no increase in charges other than indexation when over half such policies will suffer these increases? Why has Provident Mutual been unable to conduct new business profitably? Should two directors be paid off with a reward of £500,000 and the ex-chief executive be given a plum job with General Accident? The planning of this takeover is so far down the road that it must have been under way for months; indeed the directors would have been fully aware of

it at the time of the last annual general meeting. Why did they not make any mention of it when being questioned on relevant topics such as Provident Mutual's financial strength? Until these questions are answered, all policyholders must vote against the takeover and hold out for a fairer deal, and not allow themselves to be trampled into accepting by the directors rushing for the exit with their booty. Yours faithfully, A. S. B. BASS, Towell Farm, Beaford, Devon.

That'll be £50 handling fee.



Charge seems to be a deed too far

From Mr J. Mattin

Sir, The Abbey National is charging me £50 "deeds" handling fee" on redemption of my mortgage. This is for looking after the deeds during the life of the mortgage, which is what it expected to do, wanted to do, and insisted on doing at the onset of the mortgage. It was not suggested that my solicitor might hold them.

makes for transfer of equity or letting, are understandable as extra work is involved. The charge for holding the deeds is unwarranted and unfair. And while I am trying to get the management to remove this charge, interest is being added to the account. Yours sincerely, IVAN MATTIN, The Brindles, Briscoe Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire.

Minors' interest in a society as great as adults

From Mr S. Ward

Sir, The letter from Clare Riley, the student, (Weekend Money Letters, November 4) raises a very serious concern about the current trend in building society takeovers.

be acting unlawfully in denying youngsters their share of the spoils. Yours faithfully, SELWYN WARD, 2 Newstead Avenue, Orpington, Kent.

The payment of cash bonuses in the event of a transfer of society ownership is supposed to represent compensation for members in respect of their share of the society's assets, business and goodwill. Cash payouts are not supposed simply to be a bribe for an affirmative vote.

Ernie's elbow needs a nudge

From Ms R. Kaye

Sir, The figures given on Premium Bonds prizes in your piece (Weekend Money, November 4) do not tally with my experience since 1984.

Where minors such as Miss Riley hold share accounts in building societies, they have as great an interest in the society and its assets as adult shareholders. Observers would be forgiven for thinking, however, that National & Provincial has structured its scale of payouts to exclude minors from payment just because they don't have votes to buy off.

I purchased £1,000 of Premium Bonds in June 1984 and have won only two £50 prizes since then. In the interim, I purchased a further £5,000 worth of Premium Bonds, which won nothing, so in anguish I sold these. I still have the £1,000 lot and hope your article will jog Ernie's elbow in my favour. Yours sincerely, RENEE KAYE, 8 Broadfield Heights, Broadfields Avenue, Edgware, Middlesex.

That National & Provincial is behaving cynically seems irrefutable. Perhaps one of the society's disinterested young savers should approach the courts to test whether they might also

Eviction order

From Ms A. Jones

Sir, I read with interest your feature on the merits of renting as against buying property (Weekend Money, October 29).

Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number wherever possible. The Times regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice and asks that original documents are not sent in. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

One point that your article failed to make, however, is that those who rent are liable to find themselves subject to eviction if their landlord does not keep up his mortgage payments where a property is subject to a mortgage.

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Seaboard	CSW	1,600	88p cash/vapil share	8/11 na
Engl Nat Inv	Par-Caribbean	na	na	8/11 28/11
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S.Wales Elec	Welsh Water	na	In discussions	na na

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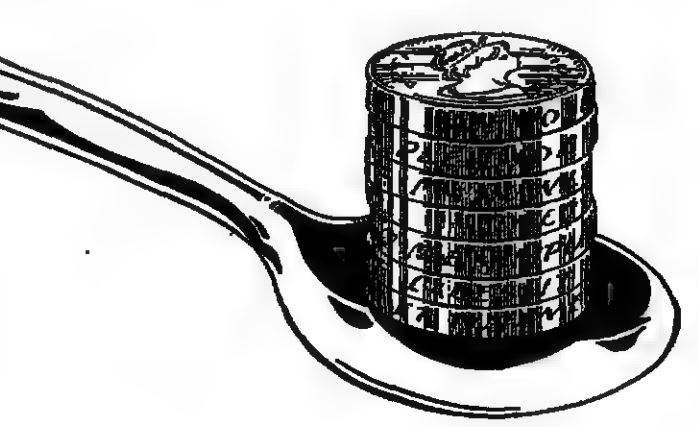
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# Week ends on dull note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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# France rebels out to prove a point

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT IN TOULOUSE

IT IS a strange, not to say unique, position that French rugby finds itself in today. The meeting at the Municipal Stadium here of the countries placed second and third in the 1995 rugby union World Cup, combined with the occasion of New Zealand's 1,000th game, might ordinarily have sufficed as an outstanding offering.

Now, however, it has also become a test of player-power, thanks to the dispute between the France national squad and their governing body which led to the resignation of André Hurrel, the team manager, on Thursday.

If France win, the players' position will be significantly

enhanced. If they lose, the opportunity is there for wholesale change, with the removal from the team of the ringleaders in the dispute.

## TOULOUSE TEAMS

FRANCE: J. Sidiyari, E. Ntamack, R. Dourthe, F. Castaignède, P. Sarradon, A. Perle, P. Caporale, L. Benicovich, M. de Thévenin, C. Calafat, B. Bannet, P. Pelous, O. Merle, A. Cammarot, A. Bericovich.

NEW ZEALAND: J. W. Wilson, E. J. Rush, F. E. Burke, W. K. Little, J. T. Lomu, S. D. Cullen, S. F. Foster, C. W. Dowd, S. A. T. Fitzpatrick, (capt), O. M. Brown, B. P. Lansen, I. D. Jones, R. M. Brooke, M. N. Jones, Z. V. Brooke.

enhanced. If they lose, the opportunity is there for wholesale change, with the removal from the team of the ringleaders in the dispute.

There have been crises in French rugby before, notably in the bickering over money which preceded the 1991 World Cup quarter-final against England, which the French lost. On that occasion, however, the team was divided; here the French are as one — "15 angry men" as the local newspaper headline declared — and may compare their situation with the stance adopted by the England team last May.

Ling was sacked as team captain by the officers of the Rugby Football Union for his derogatory assessment of the RFU committee during a television programme. His swift reinstatement was due, in no small measure, to the World Cup squad making a united response that they would have no other captain and appealing for his return.

However, the French players are dismayed that Hurrel has been caught in the crossfire. Their target was Bernard Lapasset, the president of the French federation, who was left isolated in his Pyrenean home with influenza on Thursday when the players boycotted a civic reception in protest at the enforced absence, at Lapasset's request, of the three internationals who spent the summer playing provincial rugby in South Africa.

Lapasset arrived in Toulouse yesterday and will be holding urgent talks concerning a replacement manager and chairman of selectors (France and New Zealand meet again in Paris next Saturday), not to mention the attitude of the recalcitrant players.

You might have thought there had been sufficient polemics already on this tour, given the anti-nuclear stance adopted by several leading All Blacks before and during the visit: five of them published open letters of protest to Jacques Chirac, the President of France, a fortnight ago, among them Josh Kronfeld, who has spent the entire tour struggling with an injury, and Jonah Lomu, whose clash with Emilie Ntamack is regarded as one of the potential highlights today.



Califano assumes a position behind Merle as the France forwards rehearse their lineout routine

The two wings recall the 1994 series in New Zealand, when these countries last met, and France concluded a unique 2-0 triumph. Lomu, a raw youngster, was then baffled by the intricate attacking lines of the French and was subsequently dropped; now he is the *force majeure* of the All Blacks but time has moved on for several of the players who lost the World Cup final to

South Africa less than five months ago.

Five of those players are no longer part of this XV, including the influential half backs, Andrew Mehrtens (injured) and Graeme Bachop (moved to Japan). The All Blacks have struggled against the French regional teams and may anticipate a change of course when they return home, since Laurie Mains is to step down as coach

and a power struggle to succeed him is likely to develop between Ross Cooper, the assistant coach here, and John Hart, the former Auckland and All Blacks coach.

However, the touring side's situation is as nothing compared with that of France: quite apart from this week's revolt, only six of those who played in the World Cup semi-final remain. A new genera-

tion came together in the Latin Cup last month, of whom Thomas Castaignède has been handed the goal kicking chores in the absence of Thierry Lacroix.

It is virtually impossible to predict how they will fare. Were it anyone but the French, you would be inclined to write off their prospects, but they have more than enough motivation to succeed.

## Wales aim to climb learning curve

BY GERALD DAVIES

HAVING played South Africa, the rugby World Cup winners, in August, Wales today play Fiji, one of the teams that failed to qualify for the tournament. According to Geoff Evans, the Wales manager, this match marks the second stage in the development of the national team over the next 12 months.

The various passionate contests of the five nations' championship represent the third, and the tour to Australia next summer, the fourth. With such targets in mind there is much talk of learning curves but the results of the recent past suggest no smooth and gradual upward trajectory.

Five nations' champions two seasons ago, Wales then pursued a successful course of pre-qualification for the World Cup, and looked to be developing nicely in both spirit and application. But thereafter they came down with a bump. In the spring they gave up

their five nations' title with barely a whimper, failing to win a game. There was no relief either when, on the larger stage, they failed to reach the quarter-finals of the World Cup.

Alan Davies was the coach this time last year but it was Alex Evans who was installed in the position during the summer. Since he is on his way back to Australia soon, Kevin Bowring is in charge of the senior team for the first time today. He has been a successful coach of the Wales Under-21 side.

Whether he will continue in the position depends on his teaching commitments at Clifton College. A long-term appointment is further complicated by the fact that being national coach is increasingly seen as a full-time job. With this year's championship looming, and a game against Italy in January, the position must soon be settled on a more permanent basis.

## CARDIFF TEAMS

WALES: J. Thomas (Llanelli), I. Evans (Llanelli), N. Davies (Llanelli), G. Thomas (Cardiff), W. Pryor (Llanelli), N. Jenkins (Pontypridd), A. Moore (Cardiff), C. Leader (Swansea), J. Humphreys (Cardiff), capt, I. Huws (Cardiff), C. Gurnell (Llanelli), A. Moore (Swansea), D. Jones (Cardiff), M. Bennett (Cardiff), H. Taylor (Cardiff).

PLAYERS: P. Bayle, S. Brown, L. Little, M. Barr, J. Wiggins, J. Reilly, J. Vintcent (capt), G. Smith, E. Neufville, I. Tawake, A. Naccolo, E. Katalaus, T. Armitage, D. Rous.

Referee: P. O'Brien (New Zealand)

lack of continuity. In the five nations' tournament Iwan Evans was captain but it was Mike Hall who was elevated to the task during the World Cup. However, on Wales' return to the Republic two months later, Jonathan Humphreys, the Cardiff hooker, took over the reins. He will do so for the second time today.

From the team originally chosen to play under him, there has been one change. John Davies, the tight-head prop, has been forced to withdraw after sustaining a rib cartilage injury against

Pontypridd a fortnight ago. His place is taken by Lyndon Mueson, from Cardiff, who has played 13 times for the Wales A team and is recognised to be a tough prop of the old school, which encouraged the primacy of scrummage technique. This will be a problem for Fiji, who are not comfortable in this phase.

Scrumming, however, is not something they wish to emphasise. Their strength is in running and when Fiji faced, in Llanelli, a like-minded team the touring team were seen at their best, even if there were a surprising number of handling lapses.

They have a number of injury questions to resolve but the team will be similar to the one that played in midweek. Eight of them play their rugby in New Zealand and Rauleni, the scrum half, plays in Australia. They do, therefore, understand what it is to tighten their grip now and again and not to lose themselves in free expression.

## Injuries pose selection problems for Rowell

OPTIMISM may be an essential ingredient of sport but it would need an outrageous fanatic to imagine that England's selected XV to play South Africa in a week's time will appear at Twickenham tomorrow, fresh and fit to prepare for their meeting with the rugby world champions (David Hands writes).

Not one of the training evenings at Marlow this season has been unaffected by injury and Jack Rowell, the team manager, can only wait to see if Mike Catt will be able to take his place in the side, if Jason Leonard and Kyran Bracken have thrown off illness, and if Will Carling has recovered from neck injury.

That is before today's round of Courage Clubs Championship matches, the last before the mid-season break. Those clubs who can afford to do so have rested England players, but it has been impossible to clear this, the preceding Sat-

urday, completely — the training demands of the Irish and Scottish teams further complicating club selections.

Catt, the Bath stand-off half around whose running England seek to base their game, has not played since October 21 when he damaged an ankle. He misses the game with West Hartlepool today and, should be forced to withdraw, the beneficiary against South Africa — who play Italy in Rome tomorrow — would be Pears, who returns for Harlequins against Orrell, alongside Leonard.

Not that Leonard can match fit, this being only his second game of the season thanks to a long-standing shoulder injury. However Harlequins rest Carling, to ensure his availability to England, and Bath do the same with the recalled flanker, Andy Robinson, whose absence gives Ed Pearce a rare first-team outing.

## Revitalised Harris earns final shot at Jansher

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN NICOSIA

DEL HARRIS yesterday became only the second Englishman to reach a world open squash final. The 26-year-old from Colchester last night defeated Craig Rowland, of Australia, 10-15, 15-13, 15-4, 15-8 in a 77-minute semi-final at the Eleftheria Arena here in Cyprus to equal the achievement of Peter Marshall in Barcelona last year.

Marshall, who withdrew from this year's championship through illness, lost to Jansher Khan in the 1994 final and Harris will today meet Jansher, the world No. 1, who yesterday beat Anthony Hill, of Australia, 15-7, 15-12, 15-6 in 44 minutes in the second semi-final.

Tall and broad, Harris, who once promised to carry British squash to the heights, has survived his own health problems. After winning the world junior title in 1988 and a brace of British national championships in 1987 and 1989, he suffered a series of injuries, principally to the lower back, and a debilitating virus infection that led at one stage to mild Bell's Palsy.

He has rediscovered his appetite for the game over the past two seasons, shedding 27lb on the way, reaching two quarter-finals, three semi-finals and now two finals on the PSA world tour since August.

Having removed the second-seeded Australian, Rodney Eyles, on Thursday, Harris had every right to start confidently against Rowland last night but a combination of sharp rallying from the young Australian and a few dubious penalty-stroke decisions from the referee, Quintin Hill, of France, took the opening game away from him after he had been level at 10-10.

"I came up quite well from the quarter-final but I was a bit lacking in leg-power at the start of the game. The ball was a bit heavy and it took me a while to find my length," Harris said.

At 12-10 in the second game, Harris produced a dying forehand drop to end what proved to be the master rally of the match. From that point, the confidence of the Englishman grew visibly as his speed and ability to read his opponent's game increasingly negated Rowland's clean drop-shots and crisp driving.

Harris clinched the second game with a forehand drop, played at full extension in the top right-hand corner, took control of the third with a run of six points at the start and then found well-chosen spaces to seal his place in the final as the gallant Rowland tired in the fourth.

## Teddington hoping to make up leeway

JULIAN HALLS, who is recovering from a hernia operation, intends to act as manager of the Old Loughtonians hockey team, which visits Teddington today for an important first division match in the National League (Sydney Friskin writes).

Old Loughtonians, who share with Reading the distinction of being the only unbeaten sides in this division, will need all the guidance Halls can give them against the title-holders, who are aiming to recover lost ground in the championship chase.

The focus of attention switches to Reading tomorrow when they play Guildford, whose powerful attack, inspired by Jennings, will attempt to make amends for last week's 3-2 defeat by Southgate. Reading have equally strong resources from which to pick their front-runners.

## Wharton's quest

Boding: Henry Wharton, the super-middleweight from York, continues his campaign to re-establish his credibility as a world title contender when he defends his European crown against Sam Storey, of Belfast, at Halifax tonight. Wharton, who failed twice in world title attempts — against Nigel Benn and Chris Eubank — faces a tricky test against the Irishman.

## Bowing out

Nethall: Kendra Slawinski, the England captain, will be hoping to mark her retirement from the international scene tomorrow with a victory in the deciding game of England's three-match series against the Cook Islands. Slawinski, England's most capped player, will gain her 128th and last cap at the Manchester Velodrome on her 33rd birthday.

## Tideway trio

Rowing: Peter Haining, of Scotland, defends his Thames Valley Sculling Challenge title this afternoon over the Putney to Mortlake course. Two lightweighters, Niall O'Toole, from Ireland, and Frans Göbel, from Holland, are his challengers.

## Course unclear

Yachting: Proposals for including twin trapeze dinghies in the match-racing programme at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney were deferred for another year yesterday when delegates at the International Yacht Racing Union's annual conference in Hamburg failed to agree.

## Americans stick to middle way

SPAIN, Florida. Puerto Rico and now China. Who on earth said Americans do not travel well? Only about ten per cent of them have passports but Fred Couples and Davis Love III roam to all parts of the globe to bring home the Heineken World Cup of Golf (Patricia Davies writes).

The United States duo, who have won the trophy for the last three years, are four strokes clear after the second round of this year's competition, at the Mission Hills club in Shenzhen, 60-odd miles from Hong Kong. Their total of 269 is 19 under par.

Sweden's Jesper Parnevik and Jarmo Sandelin, on 273, are in second place and Ireland, represented by Darren Clarke and Philip Walton, are fifth on 281. "We're just playing for a place now," Walton said.

China does not appear to welcome careful drivers. There is anarchy on the roads here, with right-hand drive juggernauts tangling, often literally, with left-hand drive vans and cars (mainland China drives on the right). Hong Kong on the left, not to mention death-defyingly pedestrians and hordes of cyclists, all unit at night.

Obviously no one told Love and Couples. They drove beautifully and had five birdies in the first six holes. Love went on to score 67 and Couples 69 and Parnevik, who did his best to give them a rough ride with his 66, said: "I don't think they missed a fairway between them."

He had a hole-in-one at the 15th and the sponsors presented him with 52 crates of their product. But even after finishing bogey, bogey, Parnevik asked for an orange juice.

## FOR THE RECORD

### BADMINTON

PEKING: China Open: Men's singles: Third round: S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0, Sun Jun (China) 15-7, 15-0; Quarter-finals: S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0, Sun Jun (China) 15-7, 15-0; Semi-finals: S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0, Sun Jun (China) 15-7, 15-0; Final: S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0, Sun Jun (China) 15-7, 15-0.

### FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group four: Italy 2, Ukraine 0; Spain 2, Portugal 0; France 2, Germany 0; Netherlands 2, Czech Republic 0. Round of 16: Italy 2, Spain 0; France 2, Netherlands 0; Portugal 2, Germany 0; Czech Republic 2, Ukraine 0. Quarter-finals: Italy 2, France 0; Spain 2, Portugal 0; Netherlands 2, Czech Republic 0; Ukraine 2, Germany 0. Semi-finals: Italy 2, Spain 0; France 2, Netherlands 0. Final: Italy 2, France 0.

### BASKETBALL

AMSTERDAM: Zestemmer Classic: Final: Lithuania 85, Spain 87 (Spain 80, Lithuania 13, Gordon 12). Quarter-finals: Lithuania 85, Spain 87; Lithuania 85, Spain 87; Lithuania 85, Spain 87; Lithuania 85, Spain 87.

### CRICKET

CASTLE CUP (first day of four): Johannesburg: Transvaal 355-7 (M. Ruffians 133, B. White 85, K. Rutherford 51) v Border: Border 108-7 (M. Ruffians 133, B. White 85, K. Rutherford 51).

### EQUESTRIANISM

MILITARY INTERNATIONAL: The Market Engineering Stakes: 1, Day Date (B. Mandel, Switz) clear, 22.25secs, 2, Loro Pura (Purup) (P. Person, Bnd) clear, 36.58.

### REAL TENNIS

HAMPTON COURT: British Land British Open qualifying championship: First round: S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0, Sun Jun (China) 15-7, 15-0; Quarter-finals: S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0, Sun Jun (China) 15-7, 15-0; Semi-finals: S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0, Sun Jun (China) 15-7, 15-0; Final: S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0, Sun Jun (China) 15-7, 15-0.

### SQUASH

NICOSIA: World open championship: Men's quarter-finals: C. Rowland (AUS) 15-7, 15-0, S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0; Quarter-finals: C. Rowland (AUS) 15-7, 15-0, S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0; Semi-finals: C. Rowland (AUS) 15-7, 15-0, S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0; Final: C. Rowland (AUS) 15-7, 15-0, S. Sidiyari (Indo) 15-7, 15-0.

### ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 4, Ottawa 3; Florida 2, Edmonton 1; Philadelphia 3, Calgary 1; Chicago 5, Vancouver 2; Colorado 1, Dallas 1 (OT).

### MOTOR RACING

ADELPHI: Australian Grand Prix: First qualifying session: 1, D. Hill (GB) Williams 1:15.52sec (1:12min); 2, D. Coulthard (GB) Williams 1:15.88s; 3, G. Berger (AUS) Ferrari 1:16.22s; 4, M. Schumacher (GER) Ferrari 1:16.33s; 5, R. Barrichello (BRA) Jordan 1:16.72s; 6, J. Herbert (GB) Jordan 1:17.197s; 7, E. Irvine (GB) Jordan 1:17.289s; 8, M. Brundle (GB) Ligier 1:17.782s.

### RUGBY UNION

CLUB MATCH: Tenny United 25 Abernethy 22.

### SNOOKER

EDINBURGH: Benson and Hedges Championship: Second round (Evans) unbeaten; 1, H. Hendon (GB) 5-0, W. Wilson (GB) 4-1; 2, D. Taylor (GB) 5-0, M. Bevan (GB) 4-1; 3, S. Davies (GB) 5-0, M. Bevan (GB) 4-1; 4, S. Davies (GB) 5-0, M. Bevan (GB) 4-1.

### SHOOTING

SHOOTING: Reebok Tour: Semi-finals: M. G. Henderson (GB) 7-5, 6-7, 7-6; M. G. Henderson (GB) 7-5, 6-7, 7-6; M. G. Henderson (GB) 7-5, 6-7, 7-6; M. G. Henderson (GB) 7-5, 6-7, 7-6.

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**FIRST XV**

THE RUGBY MAGAZINE







Saturday Portrait: David Platt, by Andrew Longmore

## Costly football nomad driven on by desire for highest honours

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

At Crewe, when you mention The Goal, the off-the-shoulder number against Belgium that took England through to the quarter-finals of the 1990 World Cup and sent grown men out onto darkened streets to dance for joy, they will scoff at you. The few who remember will, at least, say that was nothing, they will say, I saw the Real Goal. Not many did, just 2,403 supporters and Dario Gradi, the manager of Crewe Alexandra then, in April 1987, and now.

"He was coming into the box on a diagonal run, against Stockport at home, when the cross came over," Gradi recalls. "He just took off and cracked this overhead kick into the roof of the net. The half-time whistle went almost immediately, and I was walking off just saying to anyone and everyone: 'Did you see that?' It was an absolutely brilliant goal."

Whether the Real Goal convinced Gradi that he had a future England captain on his hands at Gresty Road, he is too level-headed, too honest, to say, but £22.15 million later, he can look back with some satisfaction on his minor part in the making of the world's most expensive footballer in combined transfer fees. And to think, when Graham Taylor took David Platt to Aston Villa for £200,000 in the middle of the 1987-88 season, he reckoned the price was £50,000 too high.

Taylor had dragged his wife along to Newport on a cold, wet night to watch Platt, and came away impressed by one piece of action. Not just the flashing header with which Platt finished the move, but the 70-yard run which had taken him into position for it.

Gradi told Taylor that his investment would be a gift-edged bargain when he found out a) what a super guy his new purchase was, and b) what a phenomenal athlete he was. Wise words. Platt has made a very decent living out of being a thoroughly good pro, willing to work hard, train hard and keep out of trouble, qualities rare enough these days to be worth big money, quite apart from the unerring instinct that the young man from Chadderton,

near Manchester, has always had for that most priceless commodity: scoring goals.

Platt has marked this last week in two ways. First, by being recalled to the England squad for the international against Switzerland on Wednesday and, second, by publishing a book he wrote himself. It is called *Achieving The Goal* and is stylish enough to suggest that he could follow family tradition by swapping shooting boots for the pen. His father was production director of *The Guardian* in Manchester and much of Platt's ease with the media has stemmed from his natural understanding of the business.

The themes of the autobiography are clear enough. One is Platt's lust for scoring goals, often quaintly dismissed in phrases like:

**'For all the millions in the bank, two medals are not an adequate fulfilment of his career'**

"I was lucky enough to score a hat-trick..." The other is his insatiable appetite for being transferred. He simply loves all the cloak-and-dagger stuff, the agonising decisions, the late-night talks, the on-off deals. Hardly a page goes by without a transfer deal being offered or closed.

At a conservative estimate, Hull City, Leicester City, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Hibernian, Watford, Nottingham Forest and Blackburn Rovers have all, at one time or another, been interested in acquiring Platt's services, besides Crewe, Aston Villa and Arsenal, the three clubs he has played league football for in England after his early release — a costly one — from Manchester United.

Platt, like the rest of us, loves to be wanted. But one can sense in every move, at the heart of every whispered phone call, that the key element is not self-gratification,

not massaging of the ego, nor even bolstering of confidence, but the desire to get better.

Gradi has forgotten it, but Platt recalls in his early days at Crewe how he was jolted out of his complacency. At the time, Platt thought he was doing pretty well. Gradi knew he could do better, and told him so. It was a delicate psychological moment, but Gradi had chosen the right man. Instead of sulking, Platt took the advice to heart, began working harder, and the following summer laid the physical groundwork for those relentless, barrel-chested, high-stepping runs from deep that have made him such an outstanding and coveted international player since his England debut as a substitute against Italy in 1989.

The same strand of cussedness, of wanting to achieve, coloured Platt's decision to return to English football this season after five years with Bari, Juventus and Sampdoria. The night he made up his mind, he stood and looked over the Mediterranean from the balcony of his 15th-century castle in Genoa, thought about the five-minute car journey to the training ground, the crystal-clear sea, his friends, the restaurants, his elegant lifestyle, and then he walked back into his living-room and signed for Arsenal.

Why? For the simple reason that he wanted a league championship medal, and Arsenal, he felt, had a more realistic chance of helping him to win one than Sampdoria. One Italian Cup, with Sampdoria, and one UEFA Cup winner's medal, with Juventus, are not, in Platt's view, an adequate fulfilment of his career, for all the millions in the bank. And, at the age of 29, time is moving on.

Platt might find just how far it has gone when Terry Venables picks his England team this week. Platt, his first captain, has been out with a knee injury, and in his absence, Jamie Redknapp and Steve McNamara have settled so impressively into the midfield alongside Paul Gascoigne that a recall to colours will not be automatic. Whether a team desperately short of goals can afford



to pass over a player who has scored 26 in 35 internationals is another matter.

For all the impressive ratio, opinions still differ about Platt's true ability. Jim Courier, the American tennis player, once said that it was too simple to say that some players were gifted. Gifted for what? Some players, he said, had a gift for hard work and discipline, others for playing great shots. Both were gifts. Platt's gift is

his common sense, both on and off the field, and his instinctive understanding of his own limitations. Platt will rarely try anything beyond his reach, and therefore his mistakes are rare. He is anxiety-free.

"The one person I don't have to worry about before my head hits the pillow is David Platt," Taylor once said. He also said: "His product continually exceeds his talent." Reliability and over-pro-

duction: golden qualities for managers, if not for spectators. Platt is not a player obviously missed, but it was his energy, his and Lineker's goals, that drove England to the semi-finals of the World Cup in Italy, for all Gascoigne's headline-hogging antics, and it seems inconceivable that a place will not be found for the leading international goalscorer in the land when the England championship is in the balance.

Perhaps we want too much. It should be sufficient that, on football's sleazy street, Platt should stand out for his decency and for his knack of bringing the decency out of others. After £22.15 million worth of hopes and dreams, not one of his former clubs would close their doors to him now. That might yet prove to be his greatest achievement. And the goal against Stockport County, of course.

## Depleted Pakistan made to pay heavy price for missed catches

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN BRISBANE

AFTER two days in the baking Queensland heat, Australia's cricketers have established such a stranglehold on the first Test here that Pakistan would consider a draw good news indeed. Their first innings is only 17 overs old, yet they have lost three wickets for 40 and trail Australia by 423 runs.

To avoid following on, therefore, the remaining seven wickets must add a further 224, and there is no certainty that Salim Malik will last until he actually appears at the crease. As his team-mates suffered another enervating day in the field, spilling three chances to make it eight in the innings, he was nursing his newly-stitched left hand and brooding on a life that is bringing him little joy.

Towards the end of the afternoon, with Australia nine wickets down, Waqar Younis

joined him in the casualty ward with cramp. He came into this match short of full fitness but was beginning to swing the ball when he took cramp.

To soothe their fevered brows, they needed to bat through the last hour without losing a wicket. Instead, McDermott, returning to the Australia side after missing the victorious series in the Caribbean, ripped out Elahi in his fifth over when Taylor accepted the sort of slip catch beyond the Pakistanis.

Taylor is in particularly fine form. He held seven catches in a recent Sheffield Shield game and now, having brought on Warner, he snaffled another smart one when Ramiz Raja, softened up by the flipper, played a hesitant push to the new ball, a pukka leg spinner, which took the edge.

Bravely, Saqlain, the 18-year-old off spinner who had bowled 44 overs in the Australia innings, volunteered to

provide the nightwatch and then ran three in the last over, so that Sohail could rest for the morning. McGrath hunted his quarry. First he beat him with one that left the bat, then he found the perfect yorker, earning a leg-before decision from the last ball of the day.

It was another New South Wales player who had hogged the spotlight for most of it. Steve Waugh's ninth Test hundred, 112 not out, was one of those durable efforts (a shade over six hours) that makes him so valuable to the Australia middle order. There were only seven boundaries in it but, so long as he and Blewett were adding 135 for the fifth wicket, denying the Pakistanis the breakthrough they needed, he was doing the job required of him.

Blewett scraped together an undistinguished half-century until Waqar swung one into his front pad. Healy then pulled towards deep mid-wicket, where Mushtaq Ah-

med, the substitute fielder, held an excellent catch on the run. It was out of keeping with the rest of the out-crick, which was lamentable. When Waugh reached his century from one of many misfields (by Mushtaq, incidentally), it seemed entirely apt.

Twice in one over from Sohail, he should have perished. Inzamam, dozing at slip, missed an edge that struck him on the shoulder when Waugh was on 35. Two runs later, Moin Khan, an inadequate wicketkeeper, managed to miss a nick and a stumping chance in the same motion. He then dropped Reiffel off Mohammad Akram, diving across first slip. With safer hands, Pakistan would have saved themselves 141 certain runs and, conservatively, a good 40 more had their ground fielding been up to scratch.

Waqar did his best to finish off the tail before he limped away. Reiffel, leg-before, and McDermott, bowled, were victims of inswingers on a full length. Warner edged Sohail to Moin, who also stumped McGrath when the Australian went on the charge to the same bowler.

Waugh, who survived Waqar's late burst on the first evening, when he offered the first of three chances, is clearly one of life's chosen. This century followed his 200 in Jamaica in April, the innings that set up Australia's series-clinching victory. To beat Australia, it seems, you must get him early, or run up a hefty debt.

## Resolute White stakes his claim

CRAIG WHITE, who broke his right thumb nine days ago, took four for 36 as the England A cricketers won a one-day practice match against the Gymkhana club side by 40 runs in Lahore yesterday.

Nasser Hussain, the captain, and John Embarey, the team manager, regard the Yorkshire all-rounder as a key player and were glad to see him come through a fitness test in such convincing style. Jason Gallian and Shaun Udall picked up injuries, however, which make them doubtful for the four-day match against a Pakistan Board XI starting today.

Gallian tweaked a hamstring and Udall twisted a knee, but both should be fit for the first international against Pakistan A, which begins next Friday. Gallian hit 46 off 51 balls as England A scored 196 for six in 40 overs.

"I felt the thumb a few times while batting, especially when I jabbed the ball into the ground," White said. "I also felt it when fielding, but it's only pain. You've just got to get on with it. I knew I had to play here if I was to make the team for the first international."

□ The India team manager, Ajit Wadekar, criticised the Cuttack ground authorities after a rain-soaked pitch caused a second successive blank day in the third and final Test against New Zealand.

Wigan, the holders, rest Gary Connolly for the visit of Whitehaven. Barrie-Jon Mather takes over in the centre and Scott Quinnell gets one of his infrequent full outings in the second row.

Mike Ford, recently arrived from South Queensland Crushers, starts his first match at scrum half for Warrington in the game at Chorley. Workington have the awkward task today of disposing of the French Cup holders, St Estève.

## Waiting with bubbled bliss and bated breath

FREE champagne! Well, you must admit, it is hard to write a better intro than that. And what is more, it has the added and unusual virtue of being true. I have a great number of bottles of Champagne Nicolas Feuillate to offer to the deserving. Yes, it has come round to that magic number time in sport again.

Last year, I collected from readers scores of sport's magic numbers: 501 for Lara; 10 for Pelé, 4 for Roger Barnister, 3 for Red Rum. That sort of thing. But sport sings with numbers: there must be many new ones this year (3 for Dominic Cork? 13 for rugby union?) and many more old ones that nobody has unearthed.

I offer a bottle of firm and delicately-bubbled bliss for the best ones: get them to me by December 15, and I will print the lot a few days later. I wait with full bottles and bated breath.

### Numbers game

Here is a magic number to start everybody off: 2345. Doesn't ring a bell? Then you are insufficiently American. Michael Jordan wore the number 23 on his basketball uniform when he played for Chicago Bulls, a number that was retired when he went off to be a baseball player. Having tasted the salutary fruits of failure, Jordan returned to the Bulls and basketball and took up a new number: 45.

Now, it so happens that the Bulls' home state of Illinois runs a lottery with a "Pick Four" game. You have to pick four numbers and, if they all come up, etc. etc. Well, numbers having their magic, as they do, 2345 came up. And, as luck would have it, huge numbers of people had picked it. The state had to pay out \$1.82 million, six times more than it collected.

### Food for thought

Eric Cantona, the footballer for the gourmet — or do I mean gourmand? — has received yet another tribute to his myriad-mindedness. He has been asked to open the BBC's Good Food Show at the NEC on November 22. As coincidence would have it, Manchester United, Can-



**SIMON BARNES**  
On Saturday

tona's team, play Coventry City on the same day. Cantona is seeking clearance from his club.

It was Cantona who said: "On dit que les Anglais sont arrogants. Je dis qu'ils ont la justification," or, in English, "People say the English are arrogant. I say that they have reason." Does Eric hold this view when it comes to la cuisine?

### Soft at heart

Paquale Bruno, the most ruthless and feared defender in Italian football, and known as "The Animal", is having reservations about British



football — it really is frightfully rough. Bruno, on a three-game trial with Heart of Midlothian, has said that he really will have to wear a gumshield when he plays.

### Small beer

I confess that I get awfully confused about rugby union. There was a huge fuss this week when an entrepreneur chucked £2.5 million at Saracens, insisting that this was an amazingly good business deal. Fact: on September 16, Saracens scored a famous victory over Orrell. There were fewer than 900 people present. Wise up, baby: you're in the small time now.

### Jonah's wail

Meanwhile, I learn that Jonah Lomu is missing his mum. The New Zealand wing, and the most feared man in rugby union, is on tour in France, and is homesick. "I miss speaking to my mum and dad," he said. "It's pretty hard here." One's heart goes out to the poor little lad. Particular sympathy comes from Tony Underwood, who has always had a soft spot for Lomu. Still more sympathy from Jack Rowell, the England manager, whose brilliant tactical nous came so close to neutralising Lomu in the World Cup semi-final.

### Short answer

Last week, this column carried a letter asking for comments on a cricket umpiring decision: a single that was greeted with the signal "one short". W. R. Halls, a practising umpire, suggested that "the batsman never actually bothered to gain his ground and complete the run, ie, either ground his bat or pass the popping crease. A shrewd fielder could in theory have run him out before the next ball was bowled."

### Ace of clubs

Ivan Lendl is gearing himself up to try his luck as a professional golfer. The tennis player of legend is likely to take part in the qualifying school for the Australasian PGA to be held in Melbourne in January. Lendl, an obsessive who does nothing by halves, has been a scratch golfer for years. Oddly, though he plays tennis right-handed, he plays golf the other way round. He is now 35. Ten years ago, he went to a London bookie and backed himself, at immensely long odds, to win both a tennis and a golfing major. The task has long been half done: now, clearly, it is time to finish the job. The bet would win him \$1 million.



Steve Waugh: solid century

SCOREBOARD	
AUSTRALIA: First innings	
M A Taylor c Salim b Saqlain	60
M J Slater c Mohammad b Waqar	42
D G Boon c Inzamam b Waqar	54
M E Waugh c Elahi b Saqlain	59
S R Waugh not out	112
G S Blewett lbw b Waqar	57
H A Ashley c Saqlain b Mohammad	18
P R Reiffel lbw b Waqar	9
S K Warne c Moin b Amir	5
C J McDermott b Waqar	8
G McGrath c Moin b Amir	5
Extras (b2, lb6, w4, nb13)	25
Total	469
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-107, 2-119, 3-213, 4-250, 5-285, 6-411, 7-434, 8-441, 9-452	
BOWLING: Waqar 38-9-4-2, Waqar 29-5-7-101-3, Mohammad 33-1-4-97-1, Saqlain 44-12-130-2, Amir 10-5-2-43-2	
PAKISTAN: First innings	
Salim Elahi c Taylor b McDermott	11
Amir Sohail not out	17
Ramiz Raja c Taylor b Waqar	8
Saqlain Mushtaq lbw b McGrath	0
Extras (b1, nb3)	4
Total (2 wickets)	40
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-37, 3-40, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Salim Malik, Basil Ali, Moin Khan, Waqar Akram, Waqar Younis and Mohammad Akram to bat	
BOWLING: McDermott 6-2-15-1, McGrath 7-1-17-1, Waqar 4-3-7-1, Underwood 3-0-10-0, K Liebenberg (South Africa)	

## St Helens wary in wounded Cougars' lair

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AS FIRST experiences go, a national television audience will doubtless relish "Cougars-mania" today more than St Helens. An away tie at Keighley Cougars was one of the shorter straws in the second round of the rugby league Regal Trophy.

Allied to a fanatical home support, the unbeaten first division leaders, under the guidance of Phil Larder, the England coach, have the added incentive of upsetting a member of the Super League, from which they were excluded in April.

That argument, unlike the recent-

ment still felt, has subsided. Keighley have since run into financial difficulties, which is why the BBC cameras and a capacity crowd of 5,800 for the 1.10pm start are especially welcome at the Americanised Cougar Park, previously called Lawkholme Lane.

When the clubs last met, eight years before the Cougar revolution awakened the West Yorkshire town in 1992, Keighley were beaten 60-8 in the John Player Trophy, the sort of drubbing they are now used to inflicting on others. An undefeated run since April 2 extends to 18 matches.

Of St Helens' fickle profit-and-loss account, Larder said: "They have

scored 108 points in their last two matches, but they have let in 54, while we have conceded 107 in ten matches. They like to entertain, but with our solid defence we could give them a real surprise."

Injuries to Simon Irving, their goal-kicking centre, and Andre-Stoop, have been partially balanced by Daryl Powell, Keighley's England stand-off half, passing a late fitness test.

Tomorrow, Widnes have the best chance of bridging the gap between the first division and the championship when they play at home to a weakened Oldham. Salford can measure the state of their progress at Leeds, for whom

Alan Tait returns at full back, Paul Cook is switched to the wing, and Harvey Howard makes his first appearance of the season at prop.

Wigan, the holders, rest Gary Connolly for the visit of Whitehaven. Barrie-Jon Mather takes over in the centre and Scott Quinnell gets one of his infrequent full outings in the second row.

Mike Ford, recently arrived from South Queensland Crushers, starts his first match at scrum half for Warrington in the game at Chorley. Workington have the awkward task today of disposing of the French Cup holders, St Estève.

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# Anxious Havelange turns to Africa Johannson's vision can lead football into next century

It is not only on the playing fields that English football is out of step — almost out of communication, in fact — with Europe and beyond. During the past week, the game here has been embroiled in petty squabbles. The Football Association and the Premier League, upstairs and downstairs occupants of 16 Lancaster Gate, are competing for the same television contracts on behalf of the lesser clubs.

Over at Stamford Bridge, Ken Bates and Matthew Harding are having their spat about control of the club. In court, Terry Venables is fending off damaging allegations, another distraction for the man whose sole purpose is preparing England for something less than humiliation at Euro '96.

Throw in Wimbledon versus authority and George Graham versus decency, and one has a sorry picture of the English in their island. And while we fight among ourselves, we are not at the table when the game becomes altered on a global scale.

On Thursday, spending a day on the shore of Lake Geneva with Lennart Johannson, I saw more ramifications for the game in a matter of hours than one would learn in a month of Super Sundays here. Johannson, the president of Uefa, declared himself a few days ago a candidate, at last, to tackle João Havelange for the presidency of the world authority, Fifa.

Johannson is an Anglophile. He proved that by insisting that English clubs be readmitted to the European competitions. He relishes the English, the British representation, though he asked pointedly: "Who will be chairman at the FA after my friend Sir Bert [Millichamp]?" Nobody knows. But there is a letter from an Englishman on Johannson's desk. It is signed Gordon Taylor, president of Fifpro, the international players' union. It proposes a whole new transfer system which might appease the European Court in the wake of the Bosman affair. The proposal is for a cap on transfer fees, relating them to age and wages. But think of the English chairman, think of their gargantuan summer spending, think of the millions at risk if such a proposal becomes law without their input or consideration.

"We have to look at Fifpro's suggestion," Johannson said, "but I will say that too much money has been spent that has not been earned yet ... in all sectors."

The same man, the same



**ROB HUGHES**  
Weekend View

Uefa administration, had another important correspondence this week. Ramon Mendoza, the president of Real Madrid, together with Silvio Berlusconi, of AC Milan, are agitating for another crack at forming their own league, their own profits.

"I have written that it is our duty to explain that they are running a great risk," Johannson said. "If they go out of our business, they could be out for a very long time. At least they paid us the respect of agreeing to hold off any action until we can have a brainstorm meeting. Uefa and the clubs, in February."

What Johannson does not deny is that the Champions' League, which has sacrificed the essence of the former European Cup, is a purely financial solution.

He does not defend it as perfect, or as particularly fair. It is a compromise, in a harsh financial sporting world, created to keep Europe together and to help finance the needs

rotation of World Cups between the four continents. This means that Europe, with 85 per cent of the game's wealth, was willing to suggest that football belongs equally to the world, and Europe therefore would hold a World Cup once every 16 years.

When Havelange refused rational discussion, Johannson's proposals became a manifesto for his direct opposition. Ostensibly, the fight will be in 1998, but with the documents to be discussed by Fifa's executive on December 11, the contest could happen at any moment.

Meanwhile, where is Havelange? In Nigeria. He went there this week to pow-wow with General Sani Abacha, a friend in need. Havelange, for once in his life, admitted he made a personal mistake in moving the world under-17 championship from Nigeria to Qatar this year, and now invited himself back to Nigeria to ask forgiveness.

In truth, having shed so many of his trusted aides in Fifa, aides whom Havelange considered plotted against his presidency a year ago, he had returned to Africa, which voted him substantially into power 21 years ago.

The general showed gratitude by decorating Havelange with the title "Ekwueme" — the man who promises and delivers — and this means he is now "Chief Havelange".

In return, Havelange promised to repay a debt, promised that he will now grant Nigeria the 1997 world youth championship, taking it away from the already-elected Malaysia.

President Havelange will hear, very soon, from the Asians that he cannot do this. No longer does the Fifa executive committee blindly follow its leader. It now has a new candidate proposing a vision in which decisions are accountable and made not by one man but, as their statute defines, by the full executive.

Aside from any misjudgment Havelange makes on his presumption that all Africa applauds his trip to Nigeria, there is a new mood throughout the world football body. If only it were a mood which the distracted English administrators had time, inclination and an identifiable leader to support.

## 'No longer does the Fifa executive committee blindly follow its leader'

of the new countries out of the former Soviet Union.

Johannson is something fresh in football hierarchy. He is prepared to talk openly and honestly, but he needs countries like our own to come with clear minds, with a proper leadership succession, to be partners in thought.

The word vision is central to Johannson. Last Sunday was his 66th birthday, and the day on which this relative youngster (Havelange is in his eightieth year) finally decided that someone, preferably a European, opposes the increasingly whimsical rule of the Brazilian.

A couple of months ago, Johannson delivered two documents, *Vision I* and *Vision II*. "The first person to see *Vision I* was the president [Havelange]. He went up in the air," Johannson said.

Havelange would not even discuss a more democratic system, nor more transparency in financial and television deals. Johannson proposes a

## Clubs hold fire on TV deal

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AFTER meeting for three hours in London yesterday, the 72 Football League chairmen could not agree on whether to accept the offer of £118.5 million from the Football Association to secure television rights to screen matches. Consequently, the five-year deal — £18.5 million down and £25 million per annum for four years — was withdrawn by the FA, which had already given the Football League a two-week extension.

The chairmen were also presented with a rival bid by the FA Premier League, but, again, the board of the Football League recommended to its clubs that any decision

should be put on hold. David Davies, the FA's director of public affairs, said: "It's deeply disappointing that, after almost six months of debate with the League's representatives, a request for still more time should be made. Well, it isn't available."

"One extension has already come and gone. We have always made it clear we are not prepared to enter into any form of auction that might follow a succession of deadline extensions. It is for the Football League to now decide whether they want to try to reopen negotiations at some point in the future. For the moment, the matter is closed."

Gordon McKeag, the Football League president, said: "We are disappointed but not entirely surprised by the FA's decision, but we find it encouraging that the door remains open with them."

The offer by the Premier League, of which few details are known, was presented by Rick Parry, the chief executive. "We went with a relatively simple message: why rush?" he said. "What's the panic? What's needed is a sensible debate about structure and resources of the national game. We haven't imposed any deadline or pressure."

Everton are preparing to challenge the Scottish Football Association (SFA) in court after an independent tribunal refused to overturn the SFA's 12-match suspension on Duncan Ferguson, their striker. Ferguson is serving a three-month sentence in Barlinnie Prison, Glasgow, for head-butting John McStay, of Raith Rovers, when playing for Rangers in April 1994.

Ferguson's suspension, for the same offence, means he will not be able to resume his playing career — he is released from jail on November 22 — until mid-January. Peter Johnson, Everton chairman, said: "We requested a judicial review as we do not believe people should be punished twice."

Terry Phelan, the Ireland and Manchester City full back, has agreed to join Chelsea for £750,000. The deal had stalled as Phelan had demanded that the remainder of his two-year contract at Maine Road be paid up — because he had not asked for move. However, after further talks with City officials, the matter has been settled.



Terry Venables, the England coach, discusses tactics with the squad to play Switzerland next week after training at Bisham Abbey yesterday

## Canvey talk language of classic underdog

Andrew Longmore visits the ground in Essex that Brighton and Hove Albion will tread with fear

Canvey Island Football Club has a long history and a Latin motto to prove it. *Infans et effectus*, "youthful but effective" is the local translation, which sounds suitably impressive as Canvey Island prepare for the biggest day in their 70 years, against Brighton in the first round of the FA Cup tomorrow. "Load of old rubbish," Jeff King, the island's round manager, says. "What's Latin for a bunch of old has-beens?"

They call things as they see them in this unfashionable outpost of Essex and nobody could accuse the Islanders of taking their first brush with FA Cup history too seriously. The chief source of amusement at training on Thursday night was an inflatable Frankenstein, dubbed "Porter" after the club's square-jawed and thick-necked centre half, Steve Porter. King has not bothered to watch Brighton, nor will he change his time-honoured philosophy of making the game fun just because the opposition boast a fancy manager and a superiority of five divisions. Canvey are an unbeaten second in the 10s League second division, have lost in the FA Cup already only to be reinstated after King's Lynn fielded an ineligible player, and are as ready as

they will ever be to pose as giant-killers. What is there to lose?

"To be honest, I don't believe all this stuff about Brighton not fancying it here. They'll be ready and so will we and nothing that happens will surprise me," King says. "Brighton could come out like a whirlwind and knock

"The ground's improved a lot from last year," King said. "It's got grass on it." And a bright new 200-seat stand alongside. Five years ago, when King and his chairman, Ray Cross, adopted their home club, the stand housed a dumper truck, a few sleepers and a heap of weeds, and the 30 or so spectators could not drum up enough cash to pay the referee and linesmen. Gates now average 500 and new supporters are hitching themselves to the yellow-army bandwagon every week as a run to the semi-final

of the FA Vase has been followed with implausible haste by a trip to the first round of the FA Cup.

"No one set out any plans," King said. "We just got together a few players who knew what they were doing and kept it going." Among them, Glenn Pennyfather, who had 17 years in the league, playing for

Southend United, Crystal Palace and Ipswich Town among other clubs, before accepting a part-time job at King's sports centre and joining Canvey Island.

"It's not easy to come straight from the league, where you're pampered and wrapped in cotton wool 48 hours before every game, but I've never known a team spirit like this," he said. It is hardly surprising that the club should benefit from an upturn in the local economy. King runs the holiday camp, nightclubs in Eastbourne and Colchester and the sports centre, quite apart from owning the town's taxi service — for whom the goalkeeper, John Keeley, drives — and supplying the beer for the clubhouse. Cross owns a tarmac company and drives a burgundy Rolls-Royce. Most commercial roads in Canvey Island will lead to one of their doors sooner or later.

"Don't talk to the chairman about football, will you?" King asks. Luck and enthusiasm are Cross's attributes, not football nous. Not that King is much given to the appliance of science either. Canvey Island will, he says, play as they always do. "Just get it down and whack it." I wonder what that is in Latin.



## Pressure on Taylor to reproduce cup glory

By PETER BALL

THE Coca-Cola Cup replays are over, but the fizz lingers on in the West Midlands, with Wolverhampton Wanderers and Birmingham City gaining notable away victories. End-sleigh Insurance League points are more important, however, particularly for Wolverhampton and their increasingly beleaguered manager, Graham Taylor.

Tomorrow, Wolverhampton face Charlton Athletic at Molineux, four days after they won at The Valley. Whether it will be a happy homecoming is questionable. Freed from the pressure for league points, his players showed their ability in South London, but doing it at home, with the need for points paramount, is proving more difficult.

The man himself is not shrinking from hard decisions. He left out Steve Bull on Wednesday, the first time the cult hero has been dropped in his long career.

While Taylor looks harassed, nothing seems to puncture the spirit of his opposite number at Birmingham, Barry Fry. He gave another flourish yesterday when he turned down Wimbledon's offer for his centre half, Liam Daish, adding that he thought Daish could do better than Wimbledon. All of which, apparently, was news to Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, who denied any deal had been proposed.

Birmingham's position among the front-runners should be maintained at Elm Park, Reading, where they have never lost. History bodes less well for West Bromwich Albion, who visit the Baseball Ground, Derby County, a barren land for them since 1920.

Elsewhere, attention is on the first round of the FA Cup. Some may be nervous, with potential giant killings including Bristol Rovers' difficult game at Hitchin, conquerors of Hereford United last year, Cardiff's visit to Rushden and Diamonds and a tense Sunday match for Brighton on Canvey Island.

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